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SECURE C.I.A. COMPOUND.

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN:

-180
60
0
120
N 39° 47"
W128° 47"
BRG
RNG 456
ELV 35
03:46:21
-180
60
0
120
N 39° 47"
W128° 47"
BRG 58
RNG 45677
ELV 3567F
03:46:21

...WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED?

-180
60
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N 39° 47"
W128° 47"
BRG
RNG 4567
ELV 3567F

FORTY MINUTES AGO, A ***SUSPECTED TERRORIST CELL*** OPERATING OUT OF A FORTIFIED LOCATION IN NORTHWESTERN KYRGYZSTAN NEAR ***TALAS*** WAS NEUTRALIZED VIA WHAT ***APPEARS*** TO BE CLANDESTINE ACTION.

ALBEIT, ON A MASSIVE SCALE.

FORENSIC EVIDENCE GATHERED AT THE SCENE INDICATES MEMBERS OF THIS SUSPECTED CELL INCLUDE ***NO KNOWN HIGH-VALUE TARGETS.***

THIS ***SAME*** EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, INDICATES THAT A HIGH ***PERCENTAGE*** OF THESE MEMBERS ***WOULD*** HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED AS HIGH-VALUE TARGETS...

...HAD WE KNOWN ABOUT THEM.

ARE YOU TELLING US THAT YOU BOYS GOT LUCKY...?

HOW'D WE NOT KNOW...ANY OF THIS?

I'M TELLING YOU THAT WE WEREN'T ON THE TRIGGER.

I'M TELLING YOU THE ***SAME.***

AND NOTHING PERSONAL, BUT I'LL TAKE MY WORD OVER YOURS ANY DAY.

IF...IF ***NECESSARY***, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO TAKE ***CREDIT*** FOR IT, ***NONETHELESS?***

LOOK AT WHAT I'M CARRYING-- DOES IT LOOK LIKE A ***BROOM*** TO YOU?

CLEAN UP YOUR OWN MESS.
DIRECT ACTION

THE SEA OF OKHOTSK:

I THINK IT'D BE EASIER FOR YOU TO, UM...

MANEUVER...

...IF YOU ALTERED YOUR SIZE.

INSIDE THE VESSEL, I MEAN.

I THINK IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR YOU TO *LIVE*...

...IF I CONTINUED TO ALLOW YOU TO *REMAIN* INSIDE THE VESSEL.

WHAT YOU *SHOULD* BE THINKING ABOUT ARE THOSE SCHEMATICS.

SMOOTH.

JACKASS.

BUT...I THOUGHT YOU *WANTED*--

STOP TALKING.

AN' STOP *THINKING*.

YOU'RE NO GOOD AT IT.

WHAT UP, GIRLIE?

DON'T TAKE THIS PERSONALLY, BUT IDLE CONVERSATION IS SOMETHING I TEND TO INDULGE ONLY WHEN TACTICALLY BENEFICIAL.

IN OTHER WORDS, TO GET WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE.

I DO THAT, TOO!

I RUN MY MOUTH *ALL THE TIME*--I SAY STUFF THAT DOESN'T MAKE *ANY* SENSE, EVEN TO *ME!*

THROWS 'EM *OFF-BALANCE*, RIGHT? LIKE, DURIN' A *FIGHT?*

ARE WE *FIGHTING?*

NO, I...

I WAS JUST...

HAS PUNISHER TALKED TO YOU ABOUT--?

YES.

OH...OKAY, UM...*WHEN* DID YOU TALK TO HIM? BECAUSE...

I TALKED TO HIM LAST NIGHT.

AND THIS MORNING.

"HE KNOWS."

EARLIER THIS MORNING:

"HE"?

ROSS. HE KNOWS WHAT'S COMING.

THOUGHT YOU WERE TALKIN' ABOUT DEADPOOL.

DEADPOOL?

THAT HE KNOWS ABOUT *US*.

THERE'S NOT MUCH TO KNOW.

THOK

KHOFF--!

OH, I'M SORRY...

...DID THAT HURT YOUR FEELINGS?

NOW:

I'M SORRY.

I...I KNOW I'M NOT VERY SMART BUT...

...EVEN I CAN TELL THAT YOU LIKE HER.

WHAT'D I JUST TELL YOU?

YOU SAID TO STOP TALKING.

AND STOP...

THINKING...

RIP

HEH...

BUDDA BUDDA

BUDDA

BUDDA

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA

END SIMULATION.

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

NICE PIECE OF TECH, HUH?

WE ACTUALLY DEVELOPED THESE FOR USE ON ***SPACECARRIERS***, BACK BEFORE ***INTERSTELLAR OPS*** GOT OUTSOURCED TO ***S.W.O.R.D.*** THERE WAS TALK OF OUTFITTING THE NUCLEAR FLEET WITH THEM, BUT THEY ENDED UP COSTING TOO MUCH.

PERFECT SOLUTION FOR KEEPING A STRIKEFORCE BATTLE-READY OVER LONG PERIODS OF INACTIVITY DUE TO TRAVEL, ***ESPECIALLY*** IN ENVIRONMENTS WHERE THE USE OF ***PROJECTILE WEAPONS*** IS PROHIBITED.

IT'S NOT PERFECT--BLANKS DON'T ***KICK*** LIKE LIVE ROUNDS.

ALL LIVE AMMO WILL REMAIN LOCKED IN A VAULT THAT ONLY I CAN ACCESS.

IT'S FOR EVERYONE'S PROTECTION.

I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU PERSIST WITH YOUR... ***MORNING WORKOUTS WITH ELEKTRA*** WHEN YOU HAVE ***THIS*** AT YOUR DISPOSAL. YOU'RE JUST GOING TO CAUSE FURTHER INJURY.

TO WHO, MYSELF?

ELEKTRA?

YOU KNOW WHO I'M TALKING ABOUT.

THIS DEVICE KEEPS A ***LOG***. WHEN I CHECKED IT LAST NIGHT, DEADPOOL HAD VIRTUALLY KILLED YOU ***THREE HUNDRED TIMES***.

HOW MANY TIMES HAD ***YOU*** BEEN KILLED, ROSS?

ZERO.

BUT IT WASN'T FOR LACK OF TRYING.

I'LL BE IN THE FORWARD STORAGE BAY.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY ***ISSUES***.

"WHERE'S ROSS?"

LAST NIGHT:

IN HIS CABIN...?

ASLEEP?

I THINK SO. UM...

...WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

CONSIDERING OUR CURRENT LOCATION, I *BELIEVE* THE CORRECT TERM IS "*MUTINY.*"

I...DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

HE HASN'T LIED TO *ME*...

IT MEANS THAT ROSS ISN'T FIT TO LEAD.

HE'S A LIAR.

TRUST ME.

HE HAS.

OKAY, SO... LOOK, WE ALL SIGNED ON FOR A *REASON*, RIGHT? SPEAKIN' FOR *MYSELF*, THAT REASON *WASN'T* BECAUSE I WANTED ROSS' *HAND* UP MY BUTT, *WORKIN' ME LIKE A PUPPET.*

I WANNA KNOW WHAT THE HELL IS *REALLY* GOIN' ON. I WANNA KNOW WHAT *HE* KNOWS.

SO *I* SAY... WE MAKE HIM *TELL* US.

WE *MAKE* HIM TELL US?

YES.

ROSS. *THE RED HULK.*

UH-*HUH*... BUT VENOM'S GONNA SNEAK INTO THE ENGINE ROOM AND TEMPORARILY *STALL* US, FIRST.

YOU WANT TO CONFRONT HIM *HERE? INSIDE THE SUB?*

HUNDREDS OF FEET BELOW *BILLIONS OF GALLONS* OF *SUBZERO SEAWATER*, WITH *NO ROOM TO MANEUVER* AND *IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO A GAMMA CORE THAT COULD MELT DOWN AND CAUSE A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION?*

THAT'S THE *GENIUS* OF IT! THE ONLY WAY HE COULD POSSIBLY TAKE DOWN ALL OF US WOULD BE TO GO *FULL-ON HULK* ON US!

AND THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN DO *THAT* WITHOUT BLOWING THE SUB AND VOIDING THE MISSION.

"BASICALLY, HE'LL BE HELPLESS."

KABUL:

...GAMMA RADIATION?! WHY WASN'T THIS IN THE INITIAL BRIEF?

NO ONE THOUGHT TO LOOK FOR IT...A CIVILIAN NOTICED IT, BUT HE DIDN'T TELL ANYBODY UNTIL AFTER--

A CIVILIAN?

A LOCAL MOUNTAIN GUIDE. THE UNIT WE DEPLOYED TO TALAS BROUGHT HIM IN TO HELP 'EM GET TO THE SITE.

AND THIS GUY JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE A GEIGER COUNTER?

IT'S THE FORMER SOVIET UNION, MAN... EVERYBODY'S GOT A GEIGER COUNTER.

THIS THING IS JUST GOING FURTHER AND FURTHER DOWN THE TUBES AND IT'S SUCKING US DOWN WITH IT.

WE STILL DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO'S RESPONSIBLE...

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THEY BLEW THEMSELVES UP?

HUH? TO WHAT END?

NO, NOT A SUICIDE...AN ACCIDENT.

IT'S... POSSIBLE, BUT IT'S NOT REASSURING IN ANY WAY...

A TERRORIST GROUP THAT WE DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED ACCIDENTALLY ANNIHILATES ITSELF WITH A WEAPON WE DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE HAD...?

IT'S AN ATTRACTIVE THEORY, THOUGH...

YEAH... IT IS.

ONE UNFORESEEN PROBLEM PROVIDES THE SOLUTION TO ANOTHER.

THEY CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT.

WRITE THE REPORT.

OMIT NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH.

"NOBODY WANTS TO HEAR IT, ANYWAY."

SO...

...I KNOW WHAT WAS ON THE TRANSPORT FROM KATA JAYA.*

BUT...YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T *SURE*...**

HE LIED.

*A MYSTERIOUS, GAMMA-IRRADIATED CARGO, DISCOVERED LAST ISSUE.

** IN PREVIOUS ISSUE.

THE DATA THAT WE SALVAGED... I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE. A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.

THE SCHEMATICS, THE DECAY RATE ALGORITHMS...IT'S A RECIPE FOR A *G-CLASS FISSILE RADIONUCLIDE DISBURSEMENT UNIT.*

A GAMMA BOMB.

MORE ACCURATELY, GAMMA *BOMBS.*

JUDGING BY THE LISTED *WEIGHT* OF THE SHIPMENT, THERE COULD BE AS MANY AS *FORTY*...BUT THAT'S BASED ON SCIENCE NOW *DECADES OLD.*

IT'S ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THE *SAME* PACKAGE COULD TODAY BE CONSTRUCTED AT A *FRACTION* OF THE ORIGINAL'S WEIGHT, WITH *NO DECREASE IN OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY.*

"PARTICULARLY WHEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MANUFACTURER."

POTENTIALLY, WE COULD BE LOOKING AT HUNDREDS, IF NOT THOUSANDS, OF ***HIGHLY PORTABLE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION*** ENTERING THE BLACK MARKET AS WE SPEAK.

HOWEVER, I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE CASE.

OUR INTEL SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT THE SHIPMENT WAS INTENDED FOR A ***SINGLE END-USER*** RATHER THAN--

STOP.

WHY?

I THOUGHT YOU ***WANTED*** TO HEAR THIS--I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO KNOW EVERYTHING ***I*** KNOW.

THAT'S WHAT THIS LITTLE COUP IS ALL ABOUT, ISN'T IT?

WE ***DO*** WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.

BUT WE'RE ***DONE*** THINKING WHAT ***YOU*** WANT US TO THINK.

ALL RIGHT, THEN...

...HERE'S WHAT I KNOW.

I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE DISMANTLING OF ***MULTIPLE*** SUPER-POWERED REGIMES OVER THE YEARS. I'VE STUDIED, ***AT GREAT LENGTH***, THE PROCESSES BY WHICH OPPORTUNISTIC ELEMENTS ***WITHIN*** THOSE FALLEN REGIMES SOLICIT, LOCATE...

...***AND TRANSACT WITH BUYERS*** INTENT ON ACQUIRING THE ***MILITARY ASSETS*** OF THOSE FALLEN REGIMES. I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE DISRUPTION OF THESE TRANSACTIONS. I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ***FACILITATION*** OF THESE TRANSACTIONS.

I'VE CONDUCTED THESE TRANSACTIONS, MYSELF.

AND I THEREFORE KNOW ALL OF THE MIDDLEMEN, THE ***BROKERS*** WHO MAKE THESE THINGS HAPPEN...PARTICULARLY AT THIS LEVEL OF LETHALITY.

I KNOW THE ENEMY.

HOW MANY BROKERS ARE THERE?

"THREE."

COMBINED, YOU HAVE ALL, AT VARIOUS TIMES, BOTH INITIATED AND *FACILITATED* THE PURCHASE, TRANSPORT...

...AND *DELIVERY* OF *MILITARY-GRADE ORDNANCE* TO *EVERY MAJOR TERRORIST ORGANIZATION CURRENTLY IN OPERATION.*

WORLDWIDE.

TRICKY BUSINESS.

THAT YOU *REMAIN* IN BUSINESS SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT YOUR *INTELLIGENCE*, YOUR *COMPETENCY* AND, *MOST* IMPORTANTLY, YOUR *DEPENDABILITY.*

THE *LEADERS* OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS *TRUST* YOU. WHEN YOU SPEAK, *THEY LISTEN.*

YOU ARE GOING TO SPEAK TO THEM FOR *ME.*

...WHAT IS IT YOU ARE OFFERING?

"IT'S NOT A BOMB."

I...I CAN SEE THAT NOW.

DUDE.

WHY'S YOUR *NOSE*--?

WHAT DO YOU *MEAN* IT'S NOT A BOMB?

IT'S, UH...IT'S *SIMILAR* TO A BOMB...IT INDUCES AN EXPONENTIALLY EXPANSIVE *RADIONUCLIDE EMISSION ARRAY* LIKE A BOMB...

...BUT ON A *CYCLICAL* BASIS RATHER THAN, UM... *SPREADING OUT.* IT'S MORE LIKE A... *PORTABLE ENERGY SOURCE*, Y'KNOW? A, UH...

...A *GAMMA-POWERED BATTERY.*

I AM OFFERING THEM *TWO* THINGS.

A GAMMA-POWERED BATTERY FOR *WHAT?*

BUT *THEY* CAN CHOOSE ONLY *ONE:*

SUBMISSION...

...OR DEATH.

CONTINUED.

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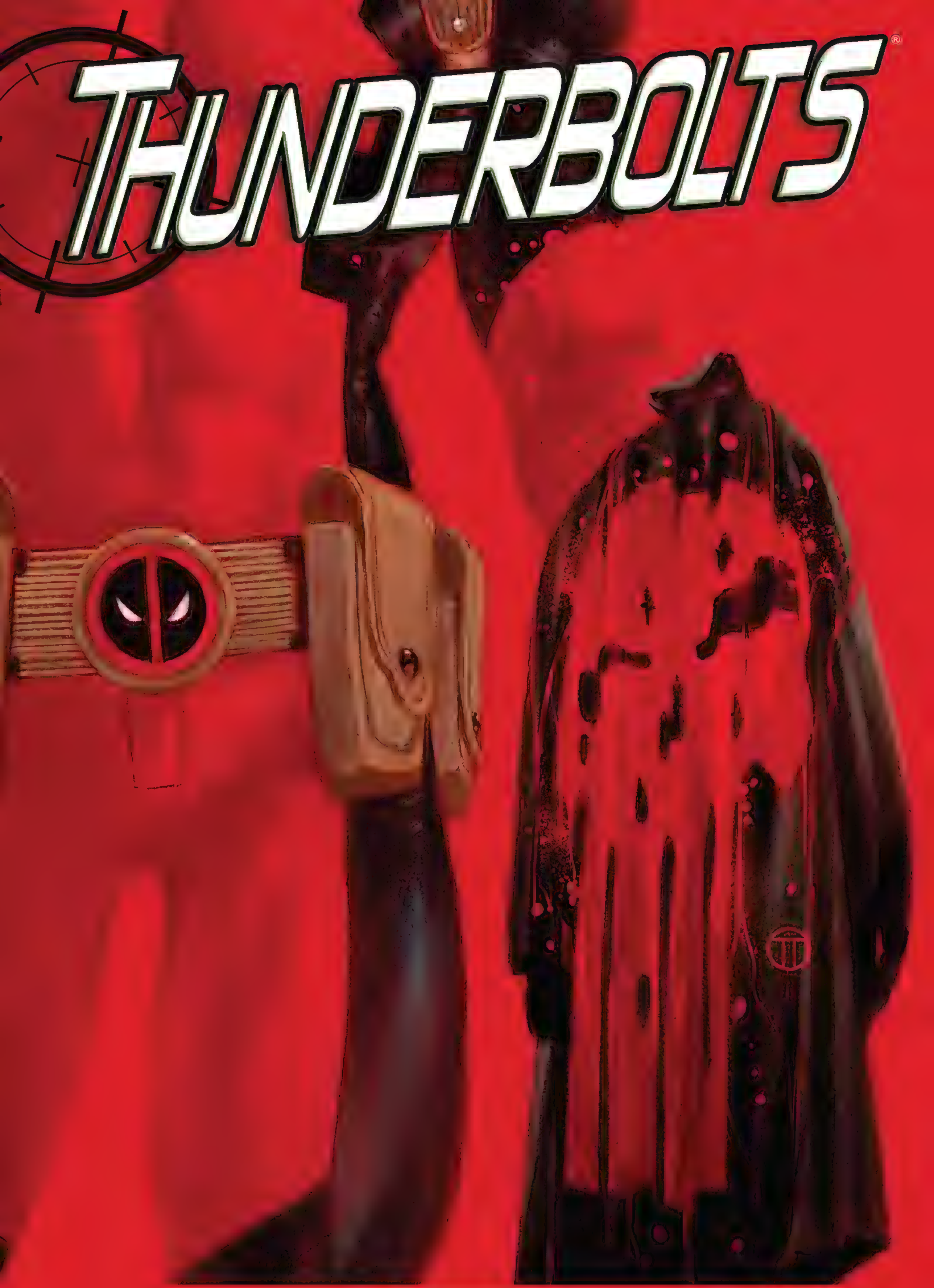

MARVEL NOW!

AR WAY
NOTO
GURU EFX

008

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CHECHNYA:

<WILL YOU MARRY HER?>*

<YES, IF ALLAH WILLS.>

<IT IS GOOD TO BE MARRIED.>

*TRANSLATED FROM FARSI.

<I HAVE *THREE* WIVES, AND THEY HAVE MADE A VERY COMFORTABLE HOME FOR ME. I WOULD ONE DAY LIKE TO RETURN TO IT.>

<IF ALLAH WILLS.>

BOOM!

<MULLAH HASSAD! YOU SHOULD NOT--!>

<WHO HAS REVEALED HIMSELF TO GOD TO BE A COWARD AND TO DEFY HIS WILL?!>

<THIS LOCATION HAS REMAINED SECRET FOR YEARS, BUT NOW WE ARE ATTACKED?! WHO HAS BETRAYED US?!>

<NAME THIS BETRAYER!!!>

IBLIS...

KRROOOOM

MULLAH HASSAD.

I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

HEAVY RECON

<I...HAVE NO FEAR OF Y-->

ENGLISH.

OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN *HOW*...

...*HENRY*?

THAT'D BE IRONIC, CONSIDERING HOW LONG IT TOOK FOR THE BOYS AT *FOGGY BOTTOM* TO TEACH YOU TO SPEAK *PERSIAN*...

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

NOT *"WHAT"*... *WHO.*

AKIL SHEHATA. ROSTISLAV KHITROVO. KOFI MAALOUF.

ARMS DEALERS?

YOU WANT TO BUY *WEAPONS?* I CAN HELP YOU.

YOU SHOULD PROBABLY CONCENTRATE ON HELPING *YOURSELF.*

CONSIDERING YOUR CURRENT SITUATION.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE OTHERS, BUT THE RUSSIAN--*KHITROVO*--CONTACTED ME THREE DAYS AGO. I'M MEETING WITH HIM TOMORROW IN *KHASVYRT*, ACROSS THE BORDER IN *DAGESTAN*.

WHAT'S ON THE TABLE?

HE WOULDN'T SAY.

NOT UNTIL HE SEES THE MONEY?

NO MONEY.

I KNOW-- I HAD THE SAME QUESTION.

HIS REPLY WAS, "*IT'S NOT THAT KIND OF DEAL.*"

WELL.

GUESS I'LL GO FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF DEAL IT *IS*, THEN.

TAKE ME WITH YOU. I'LL FACILITATE THE MEETING WITH KHITROVO AND THEN...

...AND THEN I WANT TO GO BACK.

YOU DON'T *GET* TO GO BACK, HENRY.

NOT AFTER *KABUL, SEVENTY-NINE.*

NOT AFTER YOU BETRAYED YOUR COUNTRY, YOUR FAMILY AND EVERYONE WHO KNEW YOU.

HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT ME?

WHAT'S TO KNOW?

YOU'RE A TERRORIST.

"WHAT DOES THAT WORD EVEN *MEAN?*"

ENGLAND:

THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE:

"TERRORIST."

WE'VE BEEN *TOLD* WHAT IT MEANS...

OR, RATHER, WHAT IT *IS*...

...BUT HAVE THOSE WHO'VE *TOLD* US THESE THINGS REALLY EVER PROVIDED AN ACTUAL, ACCURATE *DEFINITION?*

DON'T BOTHER LOOKING-- THEY HAVEN'T, AND THEY WON'T.

THOUGH IT WOULD BE SIMPLE FOR THEM TO DO SO.

ALL THEY WOULD HAVE TO DO IS LOOK INTO A MIRROR...

...AND DESCRIBE WHAT THEY SEE.

H-HELLO...?

YES, HELLO.

UM...*THANK YOU*...FOR COMING HERE AND... *SPEAKING*...

YOU'RE WELCOME, BUT THE PLEASURE IS TRULY MINE.

TO LIVE IN FEAR

AND I...I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT YOUR *VIEWS*...WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT...ABOUT *THE TRUE FACE OF TERRORISM* IS SO...SO...

RESONANT?

YES.

RESONANT.

THE TRUTH TENDS TO HAVE THAT EFFECT UPON PEOPLE.

BUT...ESPECIALLY WHEN *YOU* SAY IT. BECAUSE OF YOUR BACKGROUND. YOUR... *EXPERIENCE.*

THE REASON I'M HERE--THE REASON I PARTICIPATE IN THESE LECTURES--IS BECAUSE MY *"EXPERIENCE"* WITH TERRORISM, SADLY...

...IS NO MORE TRAUMATIC THAN *YOURS.*

THAT IS... SO...

THANK YOU FOR COMING. I REALLY DO HAVE TO GO.

TO LIVE IN FEAR

WAIT!

WOULD YOU PLEASE SIGN MY COPY OF YOUR BOOK...?

KHASVYRT, DAGESTAN:

...HOW MANY MORE BEFORE WE PULL THE TRIGGER?

WE PULL THE TRIGGER ON MY ORDER.

THAT'S NUMBER THREE...

PUNISHER IS *NOT* GONNA LIKE THAT.

YOU SHOULD REALLY TAKE MY WORD FOR IT THIS TIME.

AND *ONLY* ON MY ORDER.

WE'RE HERE FOR *INTEL*, NOT A *BODY COUNT*.

WE'RE NOT GONNA KILL 'EM?!

WHAT'S HIS CURRENT STATUS?

PHYSICALLY? TWO FLOORS DOWN, IN POSITION.

AND MENTALLY?

PROBABLY BEST DESCRIBED AS "FOX STARING AT HENHOUSE."

TELL HIM TO REMAIN CALM.

YEAH, I COULD DO THAT...OR, I COULD LIGHTEN HIS MOOD WITH A MEDLEY OF CRACKING GOOD JESTS.

EQUALLY EFFECTIVE, RIGHT?

HE'S THERE TO ENSURE CONTAINMENT. ARE YOU TELLING ME HE HAS OTHER PLANS?

WHO KNOWS WHAT KINDA PLANS HE HAS?!

ALL I'M SAYIN' IS, I WAS DOWNSTAIRS TALKIN' TO HIM A BIT AGO AN' HE'S, UH...

"...HE'S REALLY STARTIN' TO LOSE IT."

I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN.

WHICH IS WHY I PAIRED YOU WITH HIM.

DAAAMN...

LOOK AT YOU, SEEIN' ALL THE ANGLES AN' STUFF...

...LOUD AN' CLEAR, BOSS-- IF HE MISBEHAVES, I'LL DADDY-SPANK 'IM.

IS THAT WHY YOU PAIRED *YOURSELF* WITH *ME?*

BECAUSE YOU DON'T *TRUST* ME?

THAT'S ONE REASON...

...HERE'S THE *OTHER.*

I CAN'T TYPE.

MY FINGERS ARE TOO BIG.

THAT UNIT HAS AN INTEGRATED SCANNER AND CAN REMOTELY ACCESS OVER A THOUSAND SATELLITES. IF WE CAN ISOLATE THE TERRORISTS' SAT-PHONE SIGNALS *LOCALLY,* WE CAN SHUNT THEM *OVER* TO ONE OF THOSE SATELLITES AND *LISTEN IN.*

YOU WANT ME TO...?

USE THE CLOSEST SATELLITE POSSIBLE. IF THEY NOTICE A DELAY, THEY'LL STOP TALKING.

ON MY ORDER, KNOCK THE SIGNALS OUT OF PHASE.

WHEN WE GO LOUD INSIDE THAT BUILDING, I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO HEAR IT BUT US.

HOW DO I...*DO* ALL OF THAT?

BY USING THAT BIG *BRAIN* I GAVE YOU.

HELLO SAMUEL MY NAME IS SAMUEL

WELCOME, SHEIKH ASAD. PLEASE...JOIN US. HAVE A DRINK.

I DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOL.

AH.

NEITHER DO I.

I DRINK ONLY VODKA.

THIS IS NOT WHY I CAME HERE, KHITROVO.

YOU CAME HERE BECAUSE YOU ARE PREFERRED CUSTOMER OF MINE...AND BECAUSE I ASKED YOU TO COME.

BUT MOSTLY, YOU CAME HERE TO FIND OUT *WHY* YOU CAME HERE.

SIT.

AND I WILL TELL YOU.

THIS IS NOT HOW I CONDUCT MY BUSINESS.

BUT IT IS HOW I CONDUCT MINE.

AS YOU BOTH SHOULD KNOW.

AH.

BEAUTIFUL.

I HAVE FOUND THAT TO COVER THE WOMEN AS YOU DO IS *VERY* EROTIC. VERY...*MYSTERIOUS*. I LOOK AT THIS WOMAN AND I ASK MYSELF...

"...IS WHAT HIDES BENEATH AS LOVELY AS I IMAGINE IT TO BE?"

DUDE--DID YOU PICK THIS PERCH?

IT SUCKS...

DEPENDS ON WHERE YOU'RE STANDIN', I SUPPOSE.

HMM...

...WELL, WADDYA KNOW?

YOU'RE RIGHT.

K-POW

ELEKTRA.

STATUS.

TARGET DOWN.

YOU WERE RIGHT, ROSS.

DAMN. I'D HOPED WADE WOULD DO THE RIGHT THING.

WE'LL DEAL WITH HIM LATER. IN THE MEANTIME...

THUNDERBOLTS ARE GO.

FFSSHHH-BOOOOMMMM

<QUICKLY! SECURE THE ESCAPE ROUTE!>

<GIVE THAT TO ME!>

<WHO HAVE YOU SOLD US TO, KHITROVO?!>

UKKH--!

NOT WHAT YOU HAD IMAGINED, I TAKE IT.

THE CARS!
HOW--?
FFFFSSSSSHHHHH-
FFFFSSSSSHHHH-

BOOOOOOOOOMMMMMM
BUDDABUDDABU
BUDDABUDDABU
BUD
BUDDABUDDABU
BUDDA

KUHH

RRRR

THE SUPPLIER.
AND THE SUPPLY.
NOW.
I...DO NOT KN--
WHICH PART OF YOU SHOULD I PULL OFF *LAST?*
HE GIVES ME *NO* NAME! I *TELL* YOU IF I KNOW!
HE IS *BAD* FOR MY BUSINESS!
WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS *HERE?*
I DON'T...
...LOOK, HE *GIVES* ME PHONE, TELLS ME TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH THE *SHEIKHS.* SAYS TO CALL WHEN THEY--
HE GAVE YOU A *PHONE?*
YES, AND TO CALL WHEN--
HAVE YOU CALLED HIM YET?
NO... BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S--
BZZT...
NO!

HM?

INCOMING SIGNAL

KKRRR

THUNDERBOLTS®

MARVEL NOW!

AR WAY NOTO GURU EFX 009

DAGESTAN; SIX SECONDS AGO:

BZZT--

IT'S A BOMB!

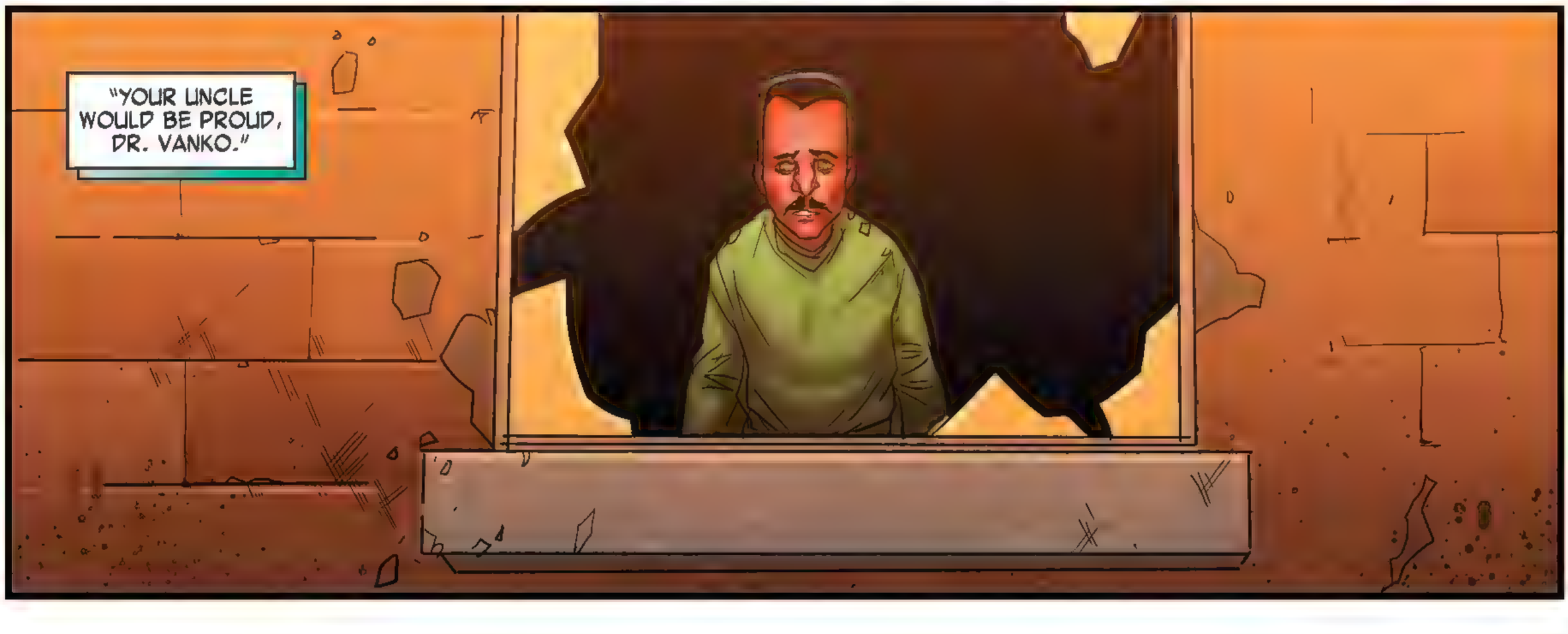
GET CLEAR!

DOWN!

OOF!

RRGK--!

ДООООООООООМММММ


"YOUR UNCLE WOULD BE PROUD, DR. VANKO."

CENTRAL RUSSIA; TWO DAYS AGO:

MY UNCLE-- THOUGH BRILLIANT-- WAS DELUSIONAL. HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE TRUE NATURE OF POWER. BUT I DO.

I HAVE HELD IT IN MY HANDS.

WHEN WILL YOU BE FINISHED?

WITH THE PHONE? I FINISHED IT LAST NIGHT.

IT'S THERE, ON THE BENCH.

THE GAMMA... *"CIRCUIT,"* IF YOU WILL, ENGAGES AT FULL POWER UPON RECEIVING A QUERY BEACON--A CALL. IF THE CALL IS ANSWERED, THE CIRCUIT POWERS DOWN TO A LEVEL COMPARABLE TO THAT OF A STANDARD CELL PHONE BATTERY.

IF UNANSWERED, THE CIRCUIT OVERLOADS AND TRIGGERS MASS FISSION WITHIN THE URANIUM CORE HIDDEN INSIDE THE REDUNDANT BATTERY HOUSING.

OR, YOU CAN SIMPLY DETONATE IT AT WILL.

FORTUNE. POWER. SO MUCH IN THE HANDS OF SO FEW.

THOSE WHO HAVE ONE, LUST FOR THE OTHER. THOSE WHO HAVE BOTH WILL USE ALL THEY HAVE TO KEEP IT, DRIVEN TO THE POINT OF MADNESS BY SHEER, BLIND...

...TERROR.

THE DESIGN IS EXTRAORDINARY...THE WORK OF A GENIUS. IF IT WERE PATENTED... LICENSED...

...THIS DEVICE COULD CREATE FORTUNE NOT SEEN SINCE THE AGE OF THE PHARAOHS.

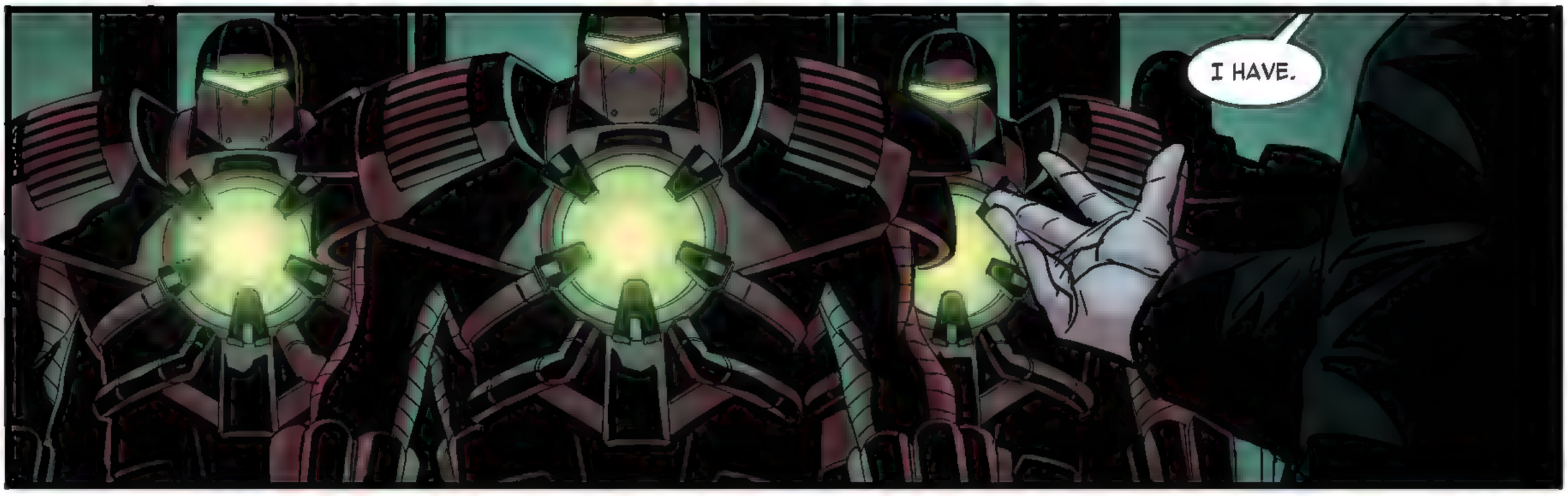
AND IF ITS SECRETS WERE GIVEN, FREELY, TO THE PEOPLE...?

IT COULD CREATE CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR THE ENTIRE PLANET.

"*CHANGE THE WORLD*," IN OTHER WORDS.

WE'VE ALWAYS HAD THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD... WE ***HAVE*** CHANGED THE WORLD, MANY TIMES OVER.

BUT WE'VE NEVER CHOSEN TO CHANGE IT FOR THE ***BETTER***.


I HAVE.

NOW.
OPEN FIRE

CRIMSON DYNAMO UNITS...?

NEED MORE FIREPOWER!

MORE THAN *ME*?

CONCENTRATE FIRE ON THEIR FLANKS!

KEEP 'EM TOGETHER!

RRRAAAAHHRR-!

DAMMIT!

I'LL TAKE THESE--

--YOU TAKE THE OTHER ONE!

KRAKK

CHOKK

I'M GOING TO KEEP SMASHING #$%& UNTIL YOU SHAKE ME OFF.

HHH...

DEADPOOL!

DEADPOOL! GET UP!

THE TEAM NEEDS YOU!

H... HAPPENED...?

I...

GOT SHOT...?

WHO SHOT ME?

VENOM!

INCOMING!

K-CHANK

I THOUGHT YOU MEANT--

I DID.

LET'S SEE WHAT THE BASTARD HAS TO SAY FOR HIMSELF.

ALLAH... =KOFF=

ALLAH HU AKBAR...

SON OF A--

BACK!

GET TO COVER!

KRRR

DOWN!

UHNF.

WELL, AT LEAST I GOT TO SEE THAT...

WOULDA BEEN HERE SOONER BUT I GOT SUCKER-PUNCHED IN THE EARLY ROUNDS.

I WOULDA DONE THE SAME, I GUESS, IF I WAS IN THEIR SHOES.

Y'KNOW, TAKE OUT THE BIGGEST THREAT FIRST, THEN WORK MY WAY DOWN TO YOU GUYS.

YOU SHOULD PUT THOSE ON, BY THE WAY.

LOCALS ARE FOR SURE GONNA WANNA GET SOME VIDEO OF THIS.

C.I.A. BASE IN KABUL, SOON.

GAMMA SIGNATURE?

YEAH. SAME AS THE LAST ONE.*

*AN EXPLOSION THAT OCCURRED IN KYRGYZSTAN IN ISSUE #7.

BUT BIGGER.

AND WITH WITNESSES.

PLEASE DON'T TELL ME--

AL-JAZEERA'S RUNNING WITH SOME CELL PHONE VIDEO, BUT IT'S NOT GETTING ANY REAL TRACTION WITH THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING NEWS OUTLETS.

THEY'RE WAITING TO SEE WHAT WE SAY.

IF WE SAY *ANYTHING.*

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS--WHAT DO WE NEED TO *DENY?*

THAT WE DON'T *KNOW* ANYTHING.

DAMN.

DAMN.

CORCORAN'S CRAWLING THROUGH THE VIDEO RIGHT NOW. WANNA GO SEE IT?

NO.

GOT A HIT.

WHO?

HER.

THE BIOMETRIC DATABASE SAYS WE KNOW HER, BUT...

MATCH FOUND.

ID CODE: E147C3900Z51-00375

...I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS DESIGNATION BEFORE.

ENEMY? ASSET?

COULD IT BE S.H.I.E.L.D.?

MATCH FOUND.

E147C3900Z51-00375

I DON'T KNOW.

I, *UH*...I DON'T THINK WE'RE SUPPOSED TO KNOW. I THINK I SHOULD BACK OFF OF THIS.

IF IT IS S.H.I.E.L.D., WE JUST GOT PINGED BIG-TIME.

PROBABLY THE ONLY WAY TO GET 'EM TO TALK TO US...GIVE US SOMETHING TO DENY...

HEY, IS ANYBODY GETTING ORDERS FOR AN EMERGENCY FLIGHT CLEARANCE?

BZZZZT—

OH, #%!$...

...IS S.H.I.E.L.D. GONNA COME HERE?!

TO QUESTION ME?!

HELLO?

WHO IS IT?

BZZZZT—

YEAH.

YEAH.

THE U.S. EMBASSY IN LONDON...?

I JUST TOOK A CALL FROM THE U.K. AMBASSADOR TO GREECE-- SOMEONE CAME INTO THE GREEK EMBASSY HERE IN LONDON SAYING HE HAD INFORMATION ABOUT A BOMBING IN DAGESTAN...?

"SOMEONE"? "HE"?

A WRITER.

NO COMMENT.

THIS GUY'S A NOVELIST. HE WASN'T LOOKING FOR A STORY.

HE'S A WRITER. WRITERS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR STORIES.

HE'S LOOKING FOR HIS SISTER.

HE SAYS HE SAW HER ONLINE IN SOME VIDEO TAKEN AT THE SCENE...?

WHAT'S HER NAME?

I DON'T KNOW.

"BUT *HIS* NAME IS ORESTEZ NATCHIOS."

UH, HELLO...?

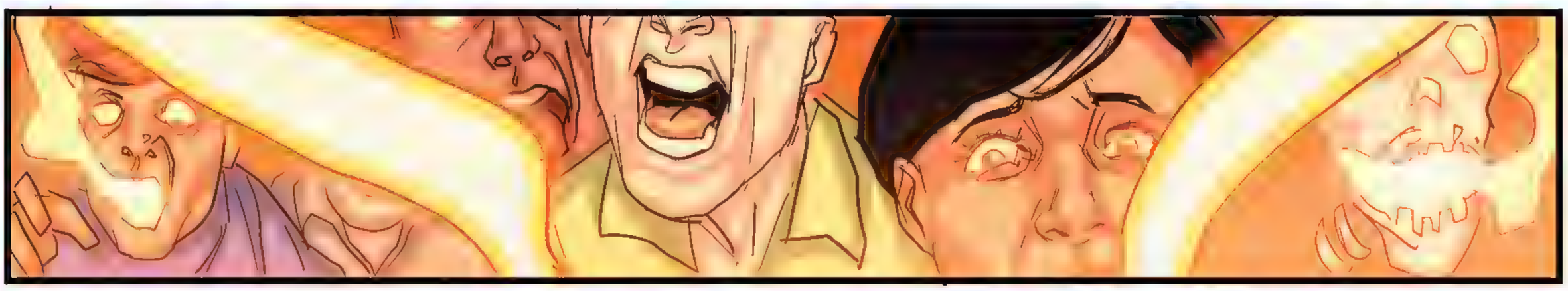
YOU'VE GOT THE BALL, FLASH.

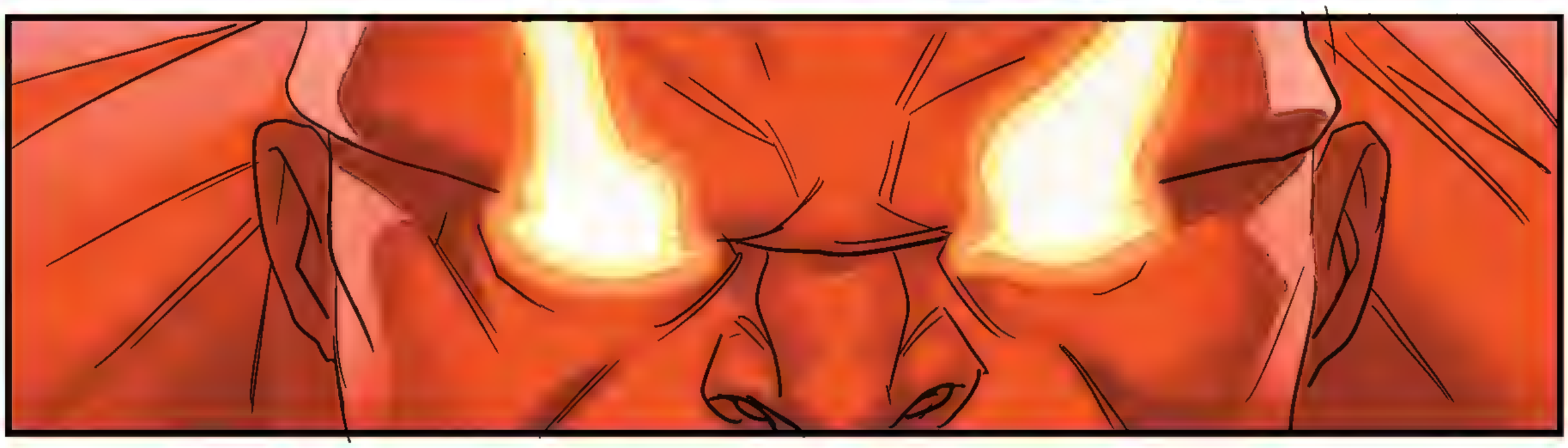
ARE YOU GONNA DO SOMETHING WITH IT?

I...

I CAN'T...

I'M SORRY...





H--!

WELCOME BACK.

ROSS WANTS US FOR A BRIEFING.

TELL HIM I'M COMING.

"CHANGE OF PLAN."

ARTHUR VANKO.
PHYSICIST, ENGINEER, POLITICALLY RADICAL IDEALIST AND NEPHEW OF IVAN VANKO, CREATOR OF THE CRIMSON DYNAMO ARMOR.
HE'S OUR TARGET?
WHY HIM?
HE FITS THE BILL.
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS HAD THEIR EYE ON HIM SINCE HE WAS A TEENAGER. HE'S BRILLIANT, HE'S ANGRY AND HE'S BEEN STUDYING HIS UNCLE'S RESEARCH SINCE HE COULD READ.
WHEN WE TRIED TO RECRUIT HIM HE DECLINED, CLAIMING TO BE A PACIFIST. THAT PUT HIM ON A PERMANENT WATCH LIST.

"SIXTEEN MONTHS AGO, A DISUSED SOVIET INSTALLATION IN LATVIA WAS FIREBOMBED. LATER INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT THE BOMBING WAS STAGED TO HIDE EVIDENCE OF THE REAL INTENT--THEFT."
"THE INSTALLATION HAD BEEN USED TO STORE PROTOTYPES OF THE CRIMSON DYNAMO ARMOR, AS WELL AS PRODUCTION UNITS. ALL OF THE UNITS WERE TAKEN. NUMBERS REMAIN UNKNOWN.

FOURTEEN MONTHS AGO, D.O.D. LOST TRACK OF VANKO COMPLETELY. THE ASSUMPTION IS THAT HE'S BEING HARBORED BY A RADICAL GOVERNMENT. NO ONE HAS YET MADE THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE TWO EVENTS ARE LINKED.
I'M SURE OF IT.
AND I THINK HE'S ACTING ALONE.

RUSSIA'S BEEN A PERMANENT FIRE SALE SINCE THE COLLAPSE. ANYBODY WHO KNEW WHAT WAS BEIN' STORED IN THAT PLACE IS A SUSPECT. WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE ABOUT VANKO?
AN' EVEN IF HE DID STEAL 'EM, WHAT MAKES YA THINK HE DIDN'T JUST TURN AROUND AN' SELL 'EM? THAT'S WHAT I WOULDA DONE...
WELL, EITHER THAT OR USED 'EM TO PLAY THE GREATEST GAME OF ROCK 'EM SOCK 'EM ROBOTS EVER KNOWN...

DEADPOOL'S RIGHT.
YEAH?
WE SHOULD STICK TO THE ORIGINAL PLAN--GO AFTER THE OTHER TWO ARMS DEALERS. ONE OR BOTH OF THEM IS THE NEXUS.
THE GAMMA TECH FROM KATA JAYA AND THE CRIMSON DYNAMO ARMOR ARE BOTH BIG-TICKET ITEMS. SOMEONE HAS ACQUIRED BOTH AND COMBINED THEM. IF WE FIND WHO THEY ACQUIRED EITHER ONE OR BOTH FROM, WE CAN FIND THEM.
OR MAYBE WE COULD TRY CALLING THEM.

TRY CALLIN' WHO?

UM...

...WHOEVER IT IS THAT CALLED KHITROVO'S CELL PHONE AND, UH, DETONATED IT?

"I TRAPPED THE NUMBER WHEN IT CAME THROUGH."

INCOMING SIGNAL

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THIS BEFORE?

MAYBE BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO TELL *JUST* YOU.

MAYBE BECAUSE HE'S LEARNED THAT YOU SHOULDN'T BE *TRUSTED*.

YOU SHOULD TRUST ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT THE *LESS* HE LEARNS, THE *BETTER*.

THEN WHY'S HE EVEN HERE?

YOU KNOW WHY.

IS IT BECAUSE YOUR FINGERS ARE TOO LARGE TO DIAL A PHONE NUMBER?

IT'S RINGING.

BZZZT

HELLO?

CONTINUED.

MARVEL NOW!

THUNDERBOLTS

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

AR

WAY NOTO GURU EFX

010

SERIOUSLY.

DOES ANYBODY *ELSE* HAVE AN INSANE SECRET BROTHER THAT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

CONTRAVALLATION

IT'S...SURPRISING THAT HE'D GIVE US HIS NAME...

...ISN'T IT?

THAT DEPENDS.

UPON...?

HOW MUCH HE ALREADY KNOWS.

I'M NOT IN THE HABIT OF COMMUNICATING WITH THE DEAD.

HE'S NOT DEAD.

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT. ALL YOU HAVE IS A NAME.

THE NAME OF YOUR BROTHER. THIS ISN'T A COINCIDENCE.

I AGREE.

CONVENIENT, DON'T YOU THINK?

AND EFFECTIVE.

YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN YOUR EYES OFF THE ENEMY.

WHOA-- BACK UP THE DRAMA TRAIN.

THIS IS GOOD. WE KNOW WHO HE IS.

HE KNOWS WHO WE ARE.

HE KNOWS WHO I AM.

WE KNEW THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT VIDEO COULD LEAK OUT OF DAGESTAN. EVERY ONE OF US HAS HAD AT LEAST SOME OF OUR BIOMETRIC DATA* CAPTURED AND CATALOGUED...

THAT'S INCORRECT.

*UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS USED TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL PERSONS OF INTEREST, MOST COMMONLY VIA FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE.

THAT IS...IN ***ROSS'S*** CASE, AT LEAST, IT'D BE HIGHLY IMPROBABLE DUE TO THE RADICAL DEFORMATION OF HIS PHYSIOLOGY.

OF COURSE, IF SOMEONE WERE AWARE OF THE ***CORRELATION*** BETWEEN BOTH HIS HUMAN AND SUPERHUMAN IDENTITIES, IT WOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER OF--

SHUT UP.

FOR ALL YOU KNOW, THIS "ORESTEZ" IS A REPORTER.

OR A SPOOK.

ELEKTRA, YOU'RE GOING IN.

AND IF IT'S A TRAP?

WE'LL BE THERE.

AND IF IT'S NOT?

I'LL BE THERE.

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

WHY, ORESTEZ?

HM?

WHY DID YOU EVEN TALK TO HIM?!

I AM WAGING A WAR. TO DO SO, I REQUIRE TWO THINGS.

AN ARMY...

...AND AN ENEMY.

THAT PHONE CALL JUST MAY HAVE PROVIDED ME WITH BOTH.

WE *HAVE* ENEMIES.

AND I *GAVE* YOU AN ARMY.

HAVE YOU STUDIED ANY HISTORY BEYOND THAT OF YOUR FAMILY, DR. VANKO?

HAVE YOU EVER ATTEMPTED TO LOOK BEYOND THE INSIGNIFICANT SLIGHTS VISITED UPON YOUR UNCLE, HIMSELF AN INSIGNIFICANT MAN?

MY UNCLE WAS A *VISIONARY.*

YOUR UNCLE WAS A *WORKER.*

A COG IN A MACHINE. REPLACEABLE. YOU, DR. VANKO, *ARE* HIS REPLACEMENT.

YOU EXIST, AS DID YOUR UNCLE, TO *FURTHER* A VISION, NOT TO *CREATE* ONE.

MY EXISTENCE, HOWEVER, IS THE *CULMINATION* OF A VISION.

AS IS THAT OF MY BELOVED SISTER.

THEN YOU SHOULD BE ASKING FOR HER HELP INSTEAD OF MINE.

MY THOUGHTS, EXACTLY.

HENCE, THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION.

HENCE...

FWOKK-

YOU... GAVE ME... ...NOTHING.

WHERE?

LONDON.

WE'RE DEPLOYING TO ENGLAND IMMEDIATELY TO CONFRONT THIS... "ORESTEZ."

IN THE MEANTIME, I WANT VENOM AND...

...DEADPOOL TO TRACK DOWN AND RECON *DR. RICHARD VANKO.*

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME, *SIR?*

I'VE ALREADY SAID IT.

YOU'RE SENDING ME OUT TO CHASE MY TAIL.

WE'RE GONNA CHASE SOME *TAIL?*

EVEN IF VANKO'S NOT INVOLVED IN THIS, HE'LL HAVE VALUABLE INTEL REGARDING THE CRIMSON DYNAMO ARMOR.

WE WERE LUCKY IN DAGESTAN THAT THERE WERE ONLY FIVE OF THEM-- ANY MORE AND WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTAIN IT.

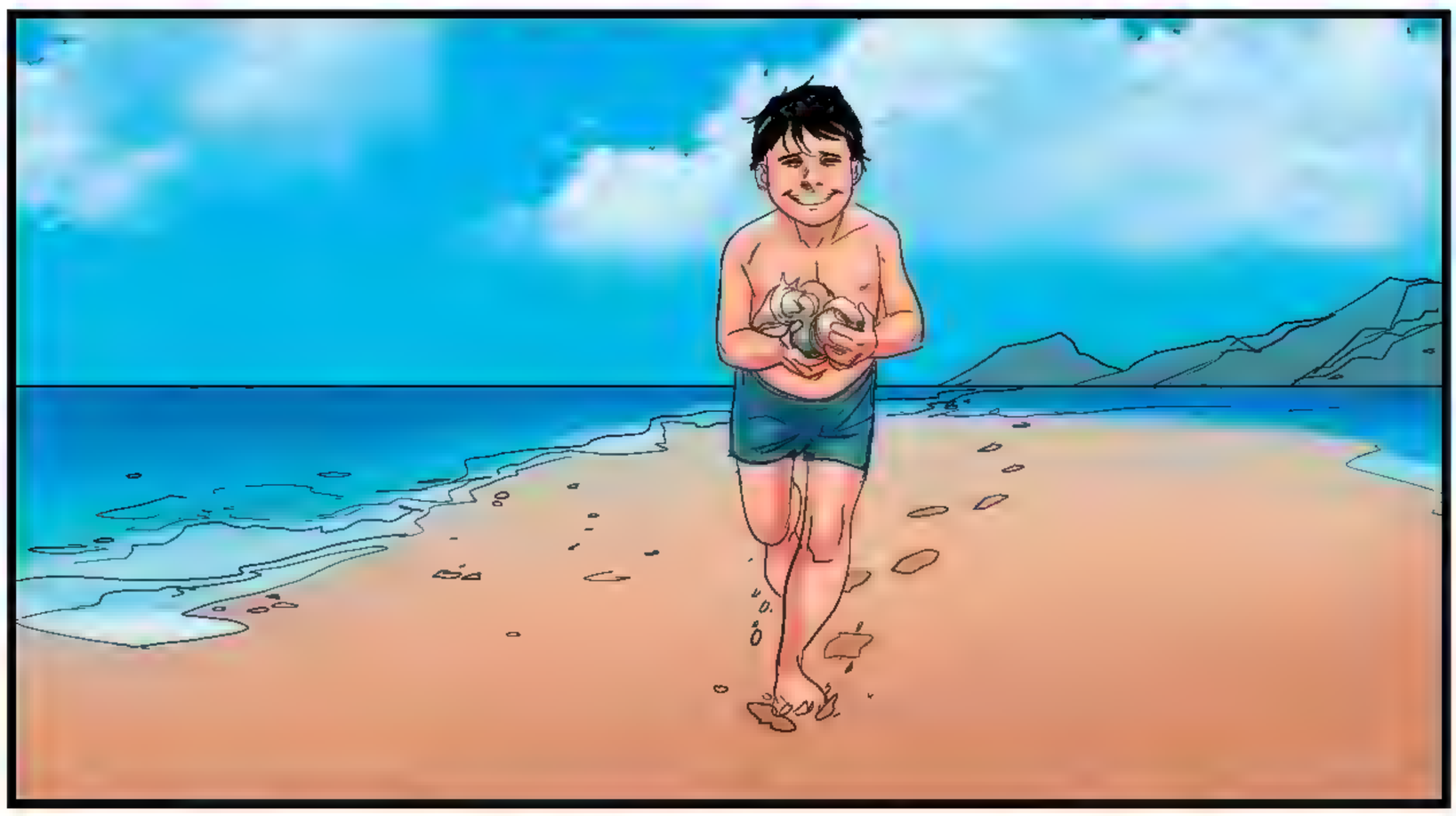
THERE WOULD'VE BEEN CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

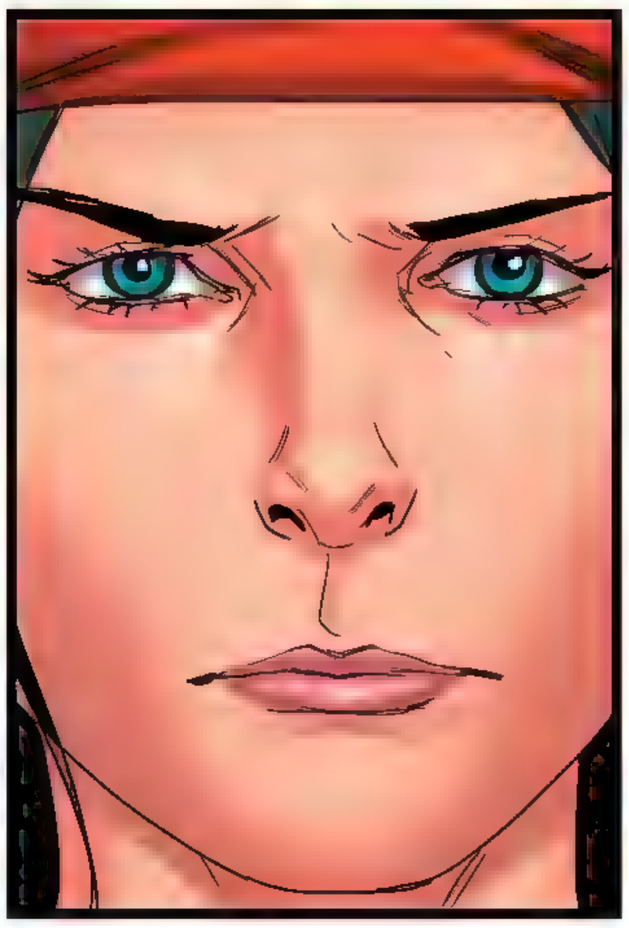
AND WE WOULDN'T WANT THAT, WOULD WE?

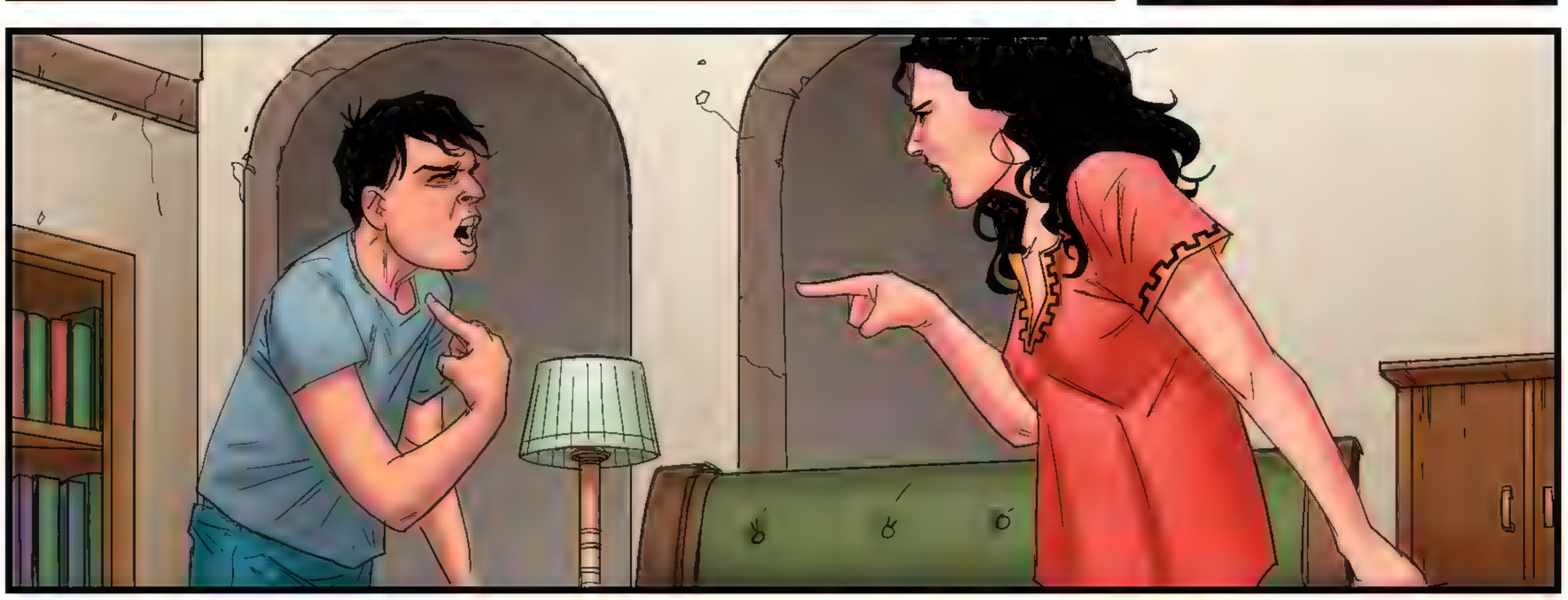
WHAT ABOUT--?

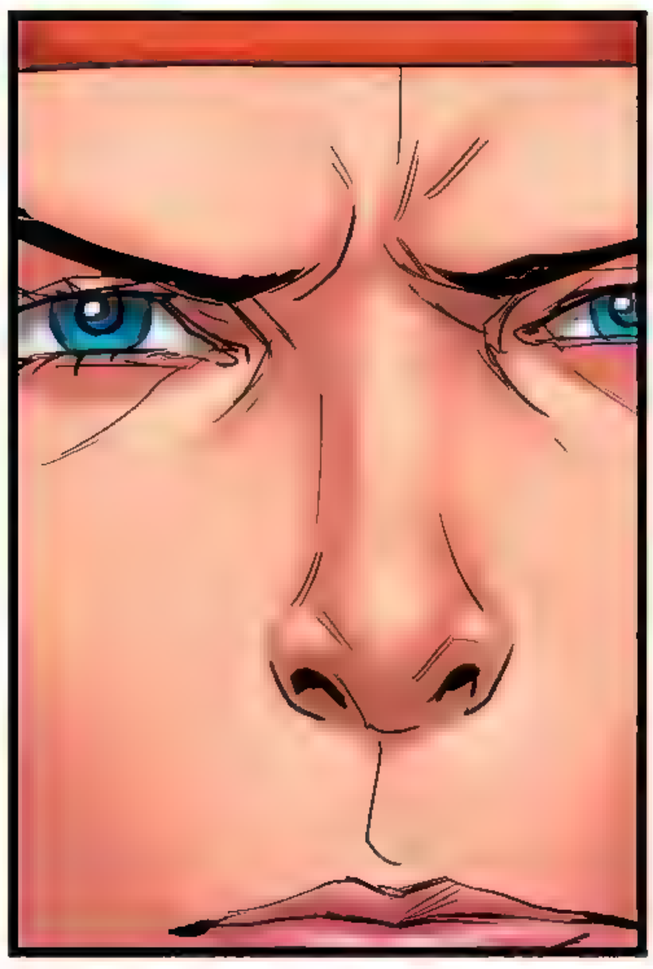
WITH ME.

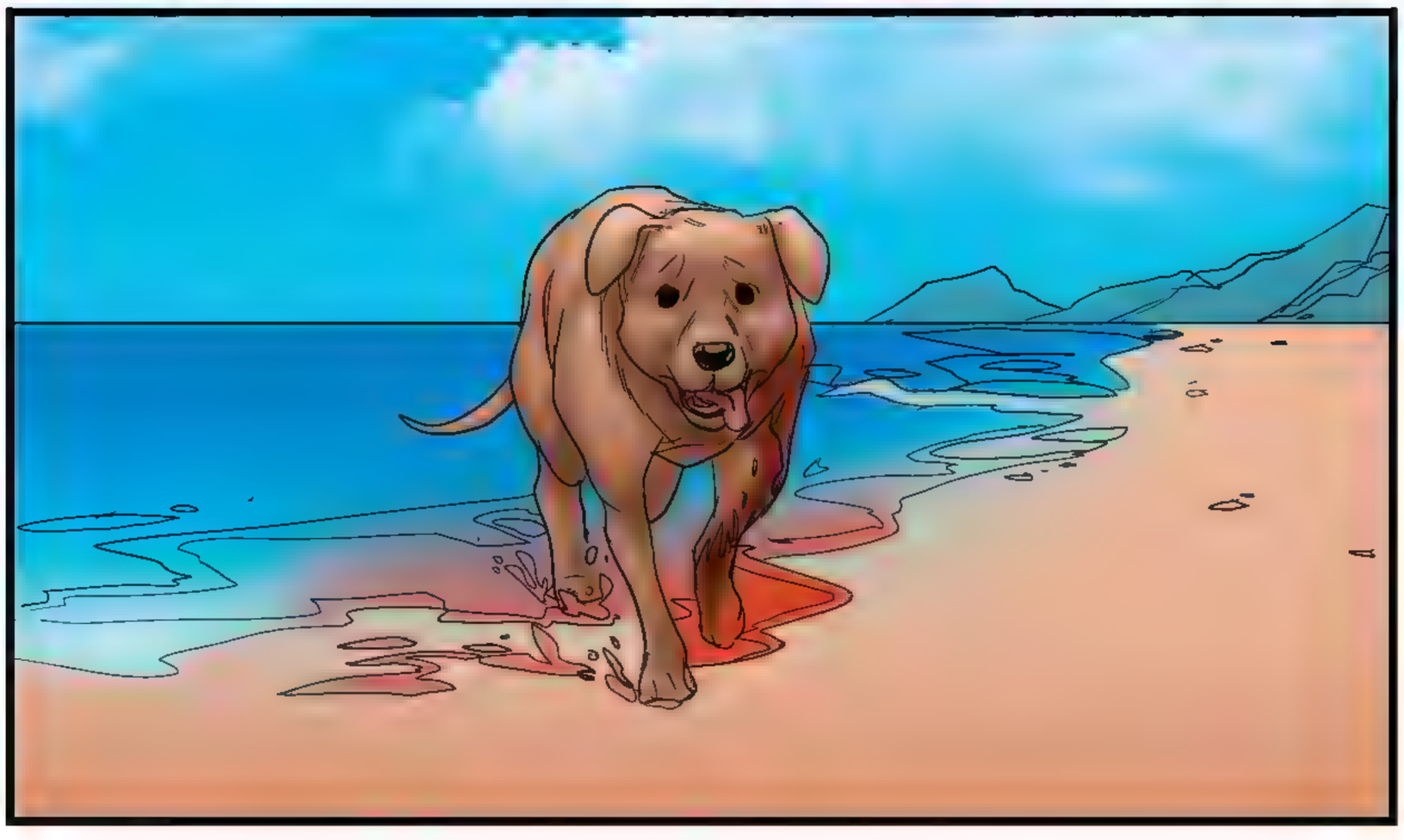
YOU'RE ALWAYS WITH ME.

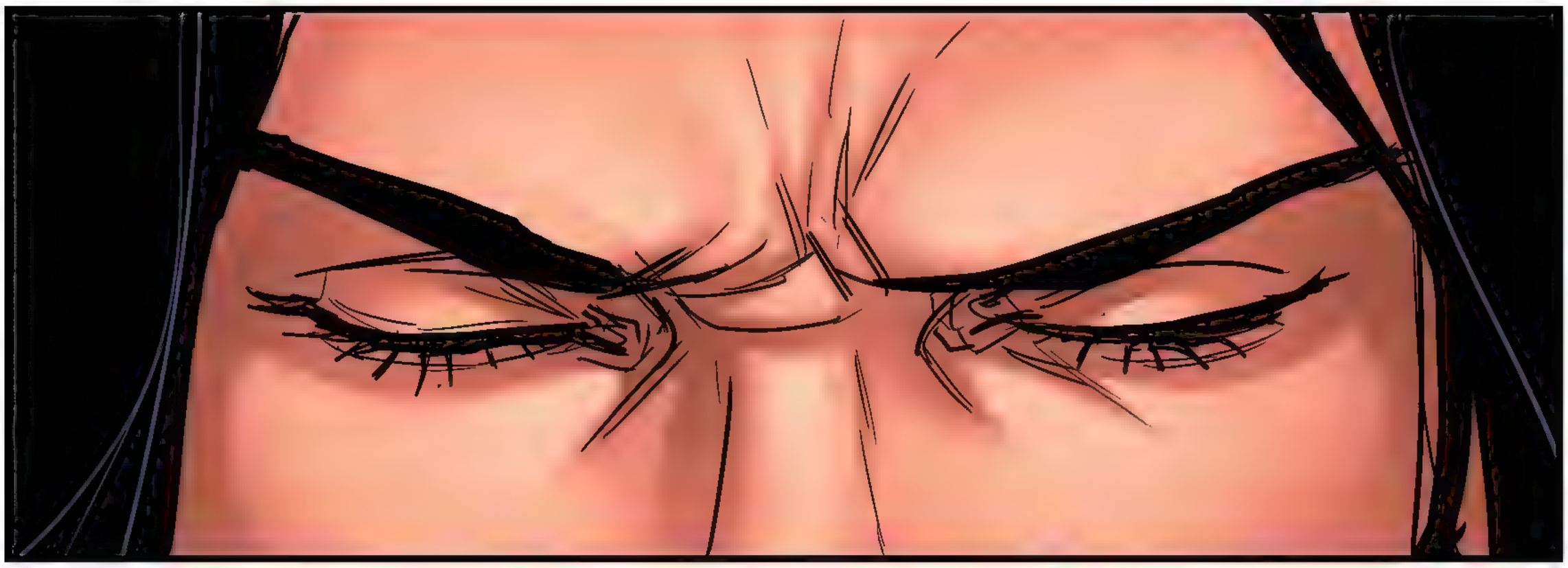












THAMES RIVER, LONDON.

FALL OUT.

ANY IDEAS?

ABOUT HOW TO FIND VANKO? YEAH.

"I'M GONNA CALL A CRAZY OLD BLIND CHICK."

WHY DO YOU CONSTANTLY CALL ME WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND SOMETHING?

DO YOU SIMPLY ENJOY MAKING FUN OF THE DISABLED, OR--

BECAUSE, AL, BLIND PEOPLE CAN SEE WHAT NORMAL PEOPLE CAN'T, DUH.

GEEZ... WATCH A KUNG FU MOVIE.

I CAN'T.

I'M BLIND.

WHATEVER... DR. RICHARD BUNKO.

VANKO.

WHAT?

VANKO.

DR. RICHARD VANKO.

HE COMMITTED SUICIDE YESTERDAY IN LONDON. JUMPED FROM HIS HOTEL ROOM BALCONY.

HE DID?!

HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?

IT'S ON TELEVISION.

VANKO DECEASED

YOU'RE WATCHING TELEVISION?!

YES, WADE.

I'M WATCHING TELEVISION WITH MY EARS.

WOW, YOU CAN DO THAT? I TRIED TO SHOOT A GUN WITH MY FOOT ONCE BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT. ALSO, PINEAPPLES DON'T GROW ON TREES.

SUCK IT, BLIND AL-- PEACE!

LOOKS LIKE ROSS WAS RIGHT-- VANKO'S DEAD.

"KILLED HIMSELF."

SERBIA:

<IT IS AS THE SCIENTIST, VANKO, PREDICTED.>

<THE GREEK HAS BETRAYED OUR HOLY CAUSE.>

<HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN TRUSTED.>

<HE NEVER WAS.>

INITIATE PROTOCOL NINE.

<WHAT...?>

<WHAT HAS HAPPENED?>

<DOCTOR VANKO PROGRAMMED THE ARMOR WITH A UNIVERSAL OVERRIDE, TO BE USED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.>

<ALL REMOTE CONTROL OF THE UNITS IS NOW DISABLED--THE GREEK HOLDS NO POWER OVER US.>

<OUR MISSION WILL CONTINUE.>

<BUT FIRST, WE WILL CUT DOWN OUR BETRAYER.>

"<IF GOD WILLS IT.>"

WHERE?
HERE. LONDON.
THAT'S CONVENIENT.
YEAH.
NOT YET.
LOOKS LIKE WHAT'S-HIS-NAME... ELEKTRA'S BROTHER IS CUTTING TIES. WE SHOULD HOOK UP WITH THE OTHERS, LET 'EM KNOW THEIR TARGET MIGHT'VE ALREADY BOLTED.
WHY?
DUDE--IF YOU'RE THINKIN' ABOUT GETTIN' SOME *SHORE LEAVE* IN WHILE WE'RE HERE, TAKE MY ADVICE AN' FORGET IT. ALL THE WOMEN HERE ARE INSANE STALKERS.
LAST TIME I WAS HERE? I MET THIS CRAZY LADY-DOCTOR WHO WAS TOTALLY OBSESSED WITH ME--LIKE, *FRIDGE FULLA MY OLD BODY PARTS* OBSESSED WITH ME.
YOU KNOW A LOT OF INTERESTING WOMEN, DEADPOOL.
I KNOW A LOTTA *CRAZY* WOMEN...
DO YOU KNOW ONE THAT CAN FLY AND HAS THE POWER TO INCINERATE LARGE GROUPS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE AT WILL?

WHY ARE WE--?

NEED INTEL.

YES.

I DO.

AND I AM ASKING YOU TO *TELL* ME, PLEASE.

YOU DO NOT ASK *ANYTHING* OF ME--*I* ASK OF YOU WHAT *I* NEED AND YOU PROVIDE IT *WITHOUT QUESTION.*

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T *NOTICED...?* I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO OFFER *BUT* QUESTIONS.

I'VE NOTICED.

WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED.

MOVE. NOW.

I'M NOT GOING TO--

COPS.

POLICE

I'M TAKING US TO MEET WITH AN OLD S.I.S. CONTACT OF MINE.

FIND OUT WHAT THEY HAVE ON NATCHIOS.

IS THAT *ACCEPTABLE?*

THANK YOU.

I JUST WANT TO BE TREATED LIKE A--

O!

YOU IN 'AT 'OOD!

THE ALLEY.

I'LL HOLD HIM OFF.

I'LL 'AVE *WORDS* WIV YOU, SON!

NO.

YOU WON'T.

ONE SIDE, CAPTAIN AMERICA...

CHK

GO RIGHT AHEAD.

AW, WOT, BILLY? CAN YEH NOT *LEAVE* IT--?

SHUT IT, YEH SLAG!

'AVE YOU SORTED *NEXT*, I WILL...

"SLAG"?

YOU SHOULD BE MORE RESPECTFUL OF WOMEN, BILLY.

H-HURGHH!

NOW THAT YOU'RE NOT QUITE SO FULL OF LIQUID COURAGE, WOULD YOU CARE TO TELL ME WHY YOU'RE SO FIXATED UPON MY FRIEND?

T-TEXT...

ON ME BIRD'S *CELLY*...

DAMMIT.

FDK

SANTO

KRRRROOOOOMMM

NO EXPLOSION.

THAT MAN'S PHONE...IT WAS A *BOMB?* LIKE THE ONE IN *DAGESTAN?*

D-DON'T BLOODY MOVE!

HOW DID ORESTEZ KNOW WHERE WE--?

YOUR S.I.S. CONTACT.

IT'S NOT MY S.I.S. CONTACT.

HOW CAN YOU BE--?

I DIDN'T TELL HIM I WAS COMING. HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO THE MAN IN 10 YEARS.

THEY COULD ACCESS LONDON'S STREET CAMS, RIGHT?

THEN...

...HOW?

YOU REALLY WANT TO DO THIS HERE?

WITH EVERYONE TAKING OUR PICTURE?

I, UH...I DON'T THINK THEY'RE ALL TAKING OUR PICTURE.

Give your phone to the man in the hood.

Give your phone to the man in the hood.

Give your phone to the man in the hood.

Give your phone to the man in the hood.

Give your phone to the man in the hood

IT'S NOT... POSSIBLE...

THERE'S SIMPLY NO WAY...

LISTEN TO ME.

I WANT EVERY ONE OF YOU TO PLACE YOUR CELL PHONES ON THE GROUND AND LEAVE THEM THERE.

NOW.

GOOD.

IN AN ORDERLY FASHION, YOU WILL NOW REMOVE YOURSELVES TO A DISTANCE OF NO LESS THAN TWO BLOCKS AWAY.

OR ELSE.

SANTO

RING

RING

RING

RING

HELLO.

...WHO IS IT?

IT'S YOU.

CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE.

MARVEL NOW!

THUNDERBOLTS

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

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LOOK, I GET WHAT YOU'RE ASKING ME, OKAY? BUT JUST TO BE SURE THAT *YOU* KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ASKING *ME*...?

MAYBE YOU SHOULD SAY IT ALL AGAIN.

BECAUSE CROSSING SOMEBODY LIKE RED HULK IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD PROBABLY PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO BEFORE PULLING THE TRIGGER.

YOU'RE AFRAID OF HIM?

THAT'S WHY YOU WENT ALONG WITH HIS PLAN?

RED MENACE

I WENT ALONG WITH THE SAME PLAN YOU WENT ALONG WITH--"#*$% THE RULES, GET THE BAD GUYS."

AT ANY COST.

TO US? WHY THE HELL *NOT?* WE WERE PAYIN' IT, *ANYWAY*...MIGHT AS WELL *GET* SOMETHIN' FOR IT.

MIGHT AS WELL DO SOMETHIN' *WITH* IT.

INNOCENT PEOPLE DIED ON KATA JAYA.

INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE DYIN' ON KATA JAYA FOR 50 YEARS, DUDE. *WE STOPPED IT.*

AND IS THAT REALLY *YOUR ONLY PROBLEM* WITH ROSS?

YOU NEED TO SERIOUSLY GET A KUNG FU GRIP, G.I. JOE--KATA JAYA'S OVER. WE BLEW IT. *THE GENIE'S OUTTA THE BOTTLE.*

I'M NOT SAYING THAT THE GAMMA TECHNOLOGY WE'RE TRACKING DOWN ISN'T IMPORTANT, I'M--

REALLY?

'CAUSE THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT *I'M* SAYIN', DUDE.

MAYBE I SHOULD SAY IT ALL AGAIN, TO MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND...?

IT'S DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN.

TRY.

AS... AS YOU WELL KNOW...

...I HAVE, IN THE PAST, STORED A VAST AMOUNT OF ENCRYPTED DATA ON THE INTERNET, PARSING IT OUT AMONG BILLIONS OF NETWORKS. DECRYPTED AND COMBINED, THIS DATA REPRESENTS, ESSENTIALLY, THE SUM TOTAL OF MY FORMER INTELLECT.

AN ESCAPE HATCH.

A NECESSARY MEASURE, DUE TO THE PHYSIOLOGICAL LIMITS OF MY--

HE HAD TO DO IT OR HIS HEAD WOULD'VE EXPLODED.

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT... HAPPENED TO MY BROTHER.

HE *DESERVED* IT.

I BELIEVE THAT, EVER SINCE I INITIATED THE DECRYPTION PROCESS IN KATA JAYA, THE DATA HAS BEEN...*SEARCHING* FOR ME. ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH A CONNECTION.

"HENCE, THE TEXTS AND PHONE CALLS."

I WANTED TO KNOW WHERE TO FIND ORESTEZ NATCHIOS. MY..."*MIND*"... PROVIDED ME WITH AN ANSWER.

JUST LIKE THAT.

AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT?

YOU CAN, BUT IT ISN'T NECESSARY... THERE ARE MANY OTHER WAYS TO VERIFY THE INFORMATION, INCLUDING, I SUPPOSE, ANY LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

ORESTEZ NATCHIOS ISN'T HIDING FROM US. HE ISN'T HIDING FROM *ANYONE*.

"TO THE CONTRARY, HE'S CURRENTLY ON A PUBLICITY TOUR."

SHALL WE BEGIN, THEN?

I AM A TERRORIST.

THE LONDON LIBRARY:

TO LIVE IN FEAR

ORESTEZ NATCHIOS

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE, AT LEAST...

AND I DO, AFTER ALL, FIT WELL INSIDE THE BROAD DEFINITION PROVIDED BY THOSE ELECTED TO LEAD ME...

...AND YET, HERE I AM, WALKING AND SPEAKING FREELY AMONG YOU.

EVEN IN THIS WORLD OF SUPER-POWERED BEINGS AND EXTRATERRESTRIAL REVELATION, THAT IS REMARKABLE.

I HAVE DEDICATED A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF MY ADULT LIFE TO SPREADING FEAR, ANGER AND MISTRUST. I HAVE ENDEAVORED TO ILLUMINATE THE HYPOCRISY AND GREED THAT FLOURISHES WITHIN THE DARKENED RECESSES OF THE WORLD'S GOVERNMENTS.

BUT FOR ALL THIS, I'VE BEEN FORGIVEN.

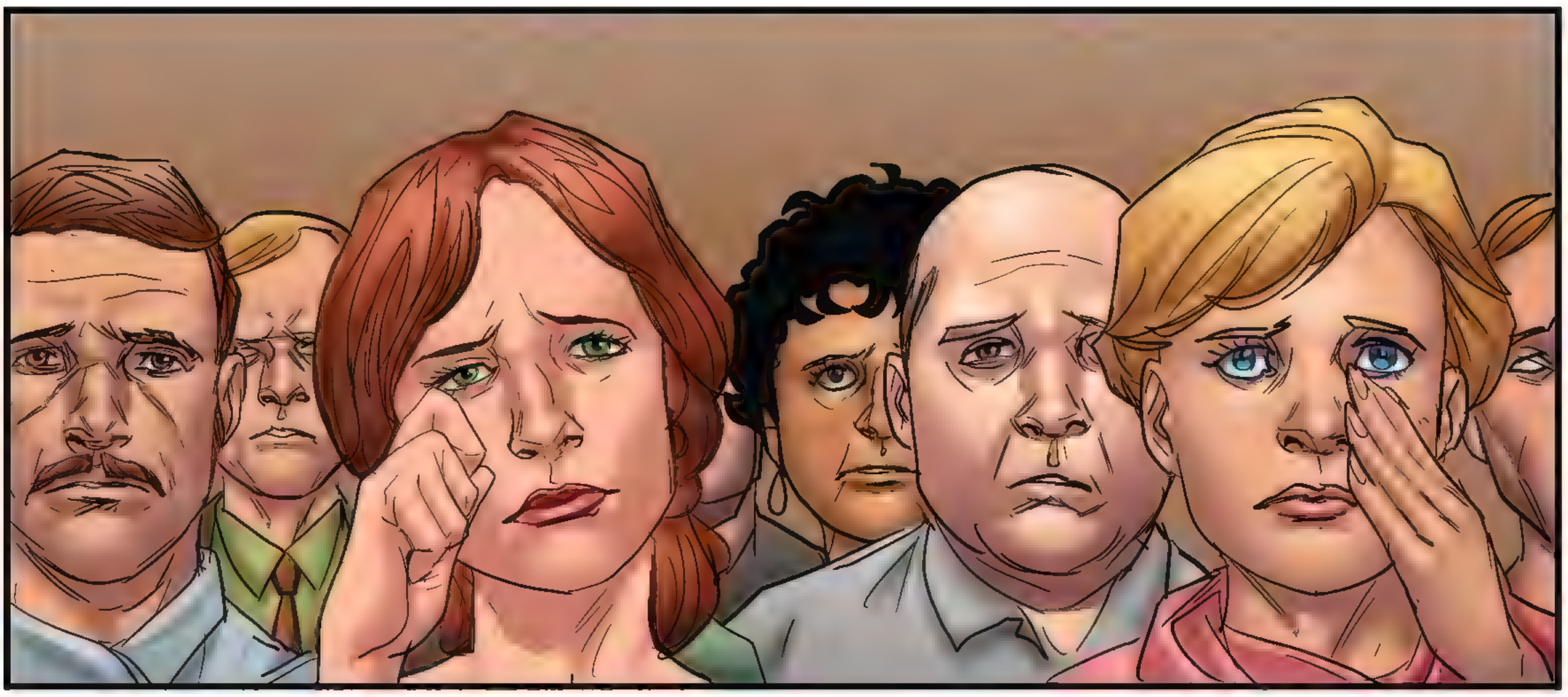
BECAUSE I WAS RAISED BY TERRORISTS.

TO LIVE IN FEAR

ORESTEZ NATCHIOS

I AM NOT A VICTIM, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...I AM A WITNESS.

TO LIVE
FEA



I HAVE GIVEN MY TESTIMONY TRUTHFULLY AND TO THE EXTENT OF MY CAPABILITY, YET I WAKE EVERY DAY WITH DREAD IN MY HEART, CERTAIN THAT IT WILL NOT LEAD TO A CONVICTION.
I CANNOT SHOW YOU WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO IGNORE. I CANNOT REVEAL TO YOU THAT WHICH YOU REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE.
I CANNOT SAVE YOU.
TO LIVE IN FEAR
ORESTEZ NATCHIOS
TO LIVE
FEAR

I COULDN'T EVEN SAVE MY OWN SISTER.

SHE, TOO, WAS RAISED BY TERRORISTS-- BRAINWASHED, TRAINED, BRAINWASHED AGAIN...A CYCLE OF DE-HUMANIZATION THAT THEY HOPED WOULD PRODUCE A LIVING WEAPON. IN THAT, THEY SUCCEEDED.

BUT THEY FAILED TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THAT WEAPON AND NOW...

TO LIVE IN FEAR

ORESTEZ NATCHIOS

...NOW, IT IS WIELDED BY ANOTHER.

I CANNOT SAVE YOU, ELEKTRA...

...I CAN ONLY HELP YOU SAVE YOURSELF.

TO LIVE

FEA

THAT'S ENOU--

NO!

IT'S A TRAP.

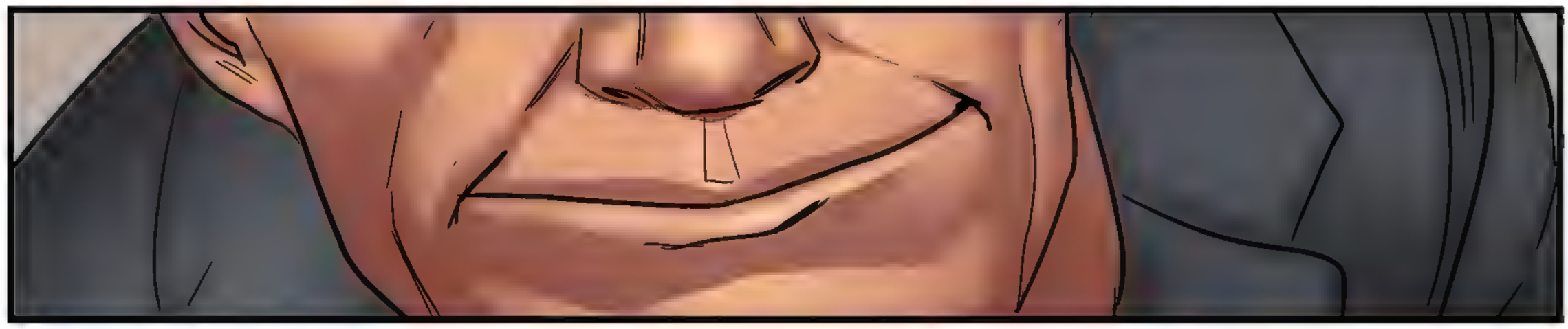
RRRR...

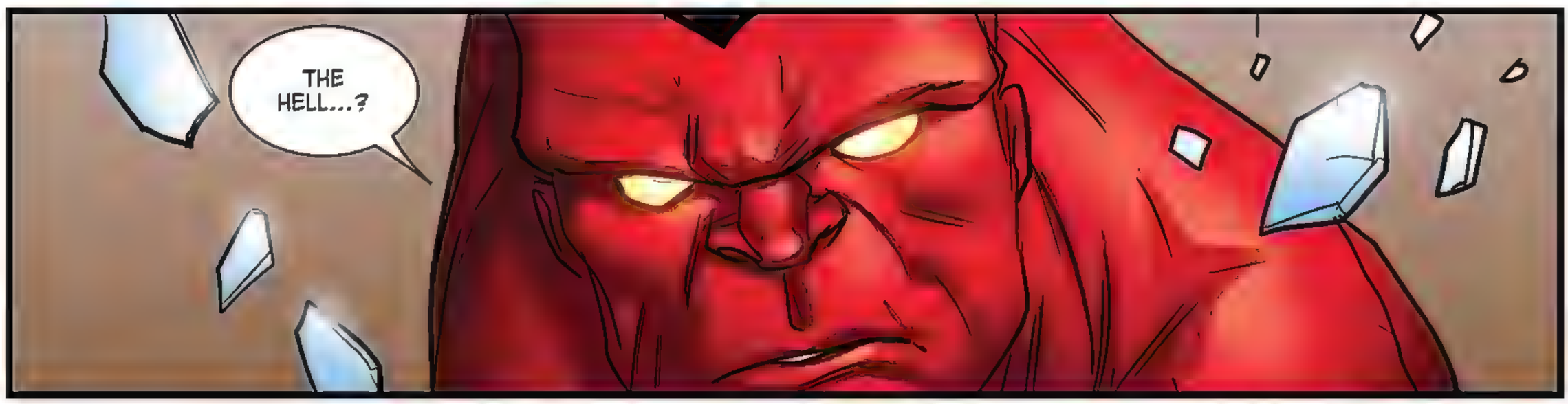
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

IF YOU CAME HERE THIS EVENING HOPING TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE TRUE FACE OF TERROR...

...YOU CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE.

RRRAAAH!




THE HELL...?

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

MY BROTHER SET US UP!

"HE'S ORCHESTRATED THIS WHOLE THING TO MAKE US LOOK LIKE THE TERRORISTS!

"HE'S GOING TO USE US TO BECOME A MARTYR!"

00:01
RECORDING

BEEP

OUR ONLY WAY OUT OF THIS IS TO SAVE HIM!

NO.

KILL 'IM.

KILL 'EM ALL.

COMPUTER ROOM

TIME LIMIT 15 MINUTES PER PERSON.

'AVE MOUNTED BRANCH PUSH 'AT CROWD BACK!

ANYONE WIV A CAMERA OUT IS TO BE DETAINED!

IS THAT THE ONLY AIR SUPPORT WE CAN EXPECT?

MORE'N ENOUGH FOR THE TASK AT HAND, MATEY.

WHAT ABOUT *ANTI-* AIRCRAFT?

WHAH?

NEVER MIND.

FOR GOD'S SAKE, MARTIN--WE'RE MISSING IT!

JUST... BE READY!

I'VE BEEN READY, YOU INSUFFERABLE LOUT!

WHY CAN WE NOT ESTABLISH THE BLOODY SATELLITE LINK...?

I HAVE NO IDEA! I CAN'T CONNECT TO ANYTHING--INTERNET, PHONE...

C.I.A. SECURE HEADQUARTERS, KABUL:

WHAT.

THE.

#&*%.

"WHO IS DOING THIS?"

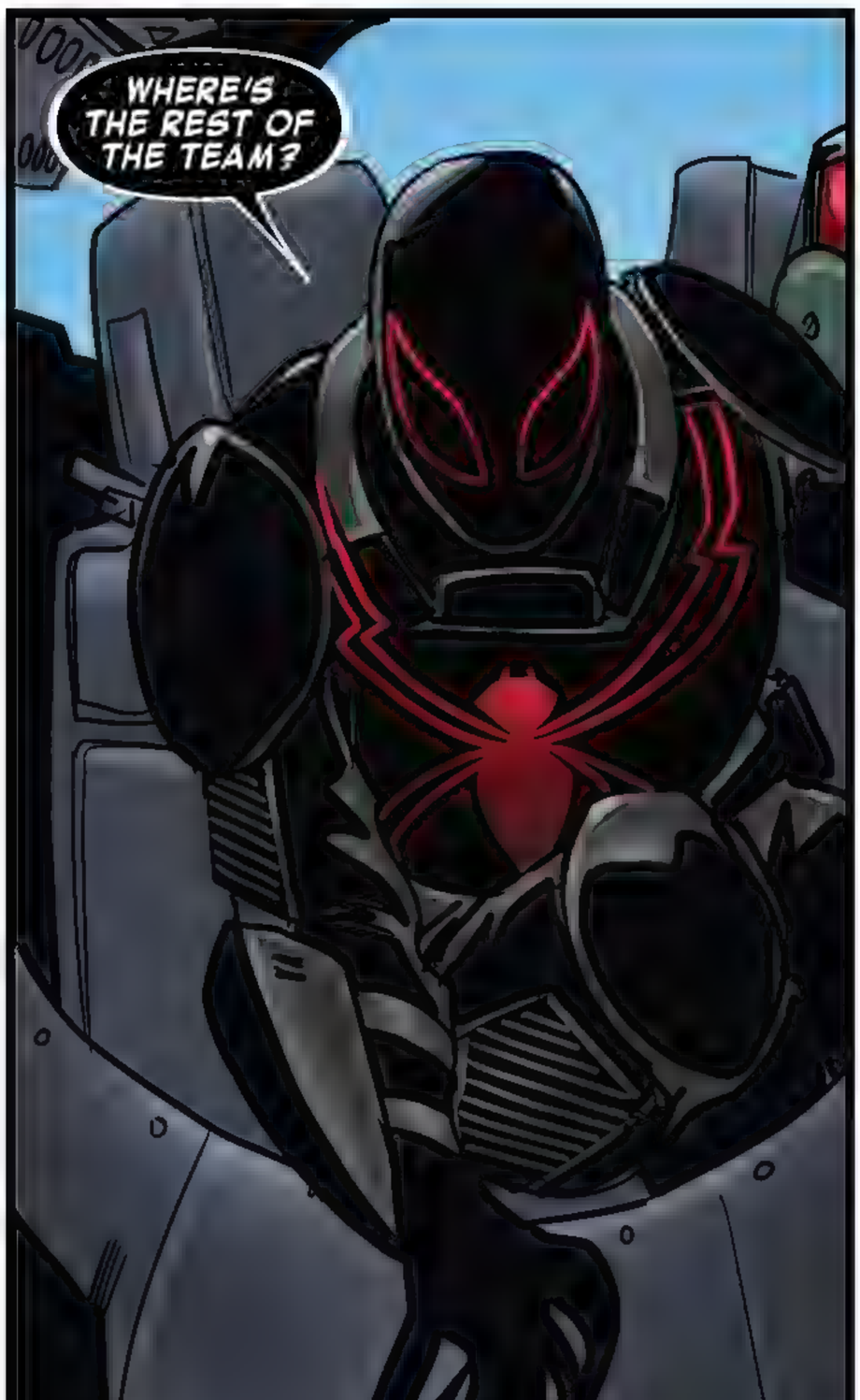
<WHERE DID THE HULK-->

RAAAHHRR!

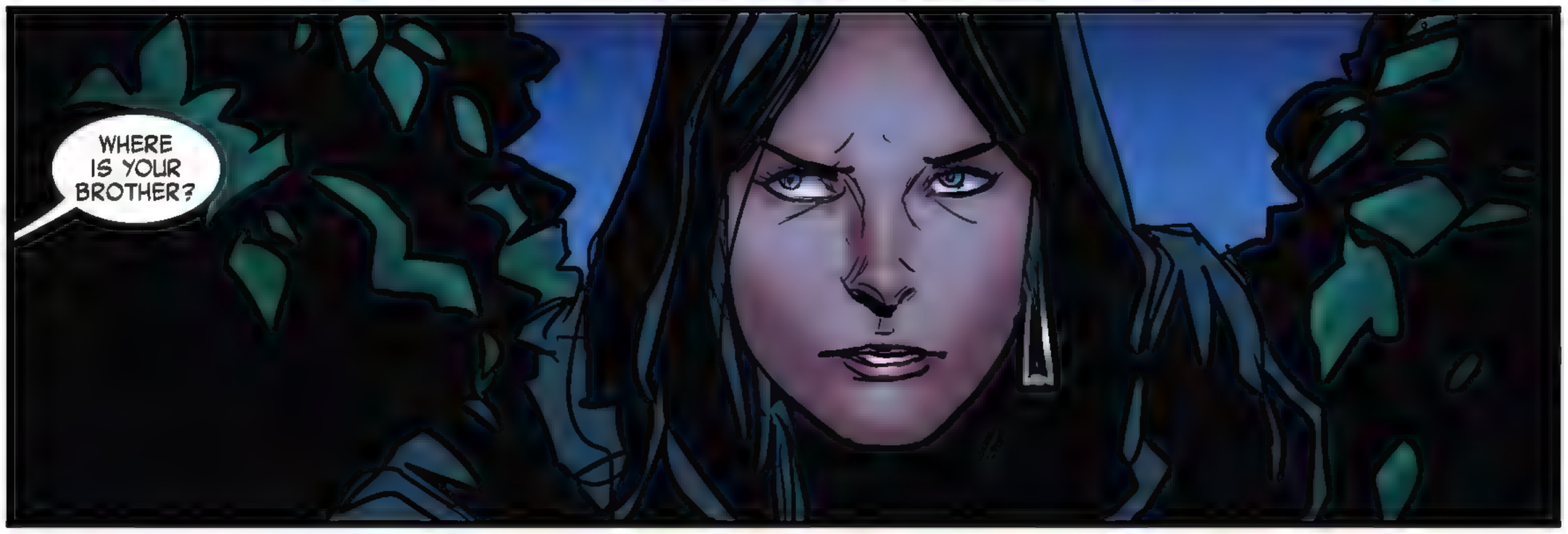
KKKRRRRNNNKCCCHHH

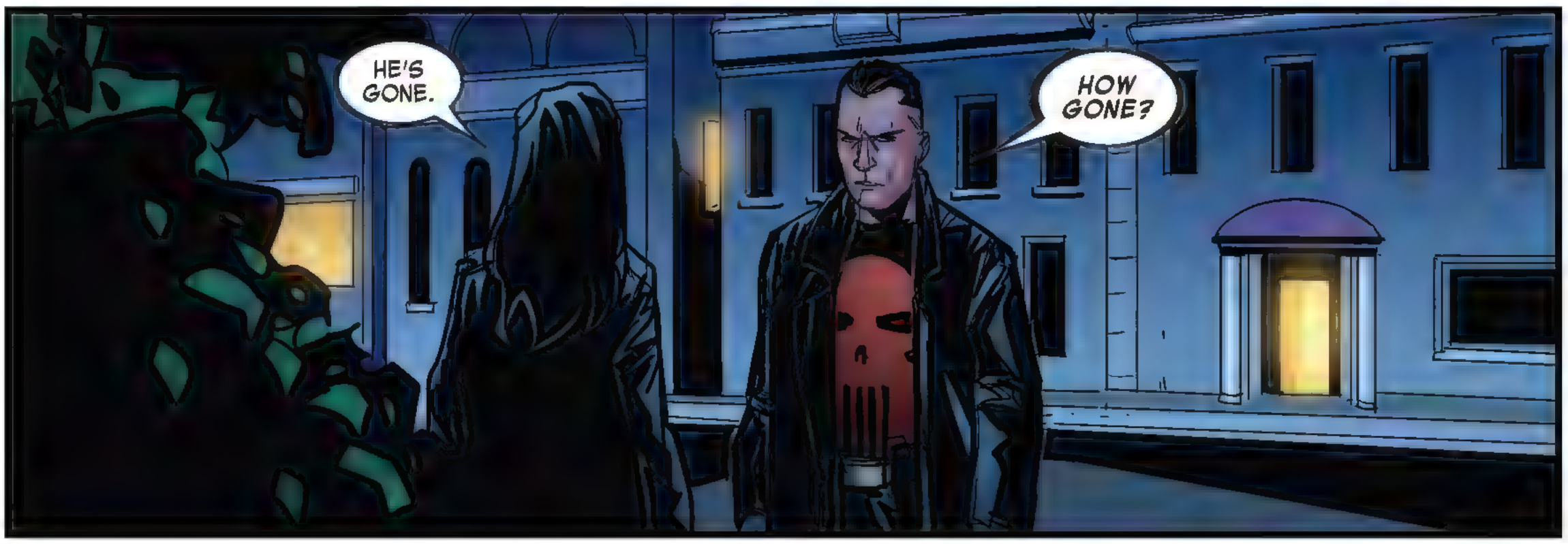
YO!

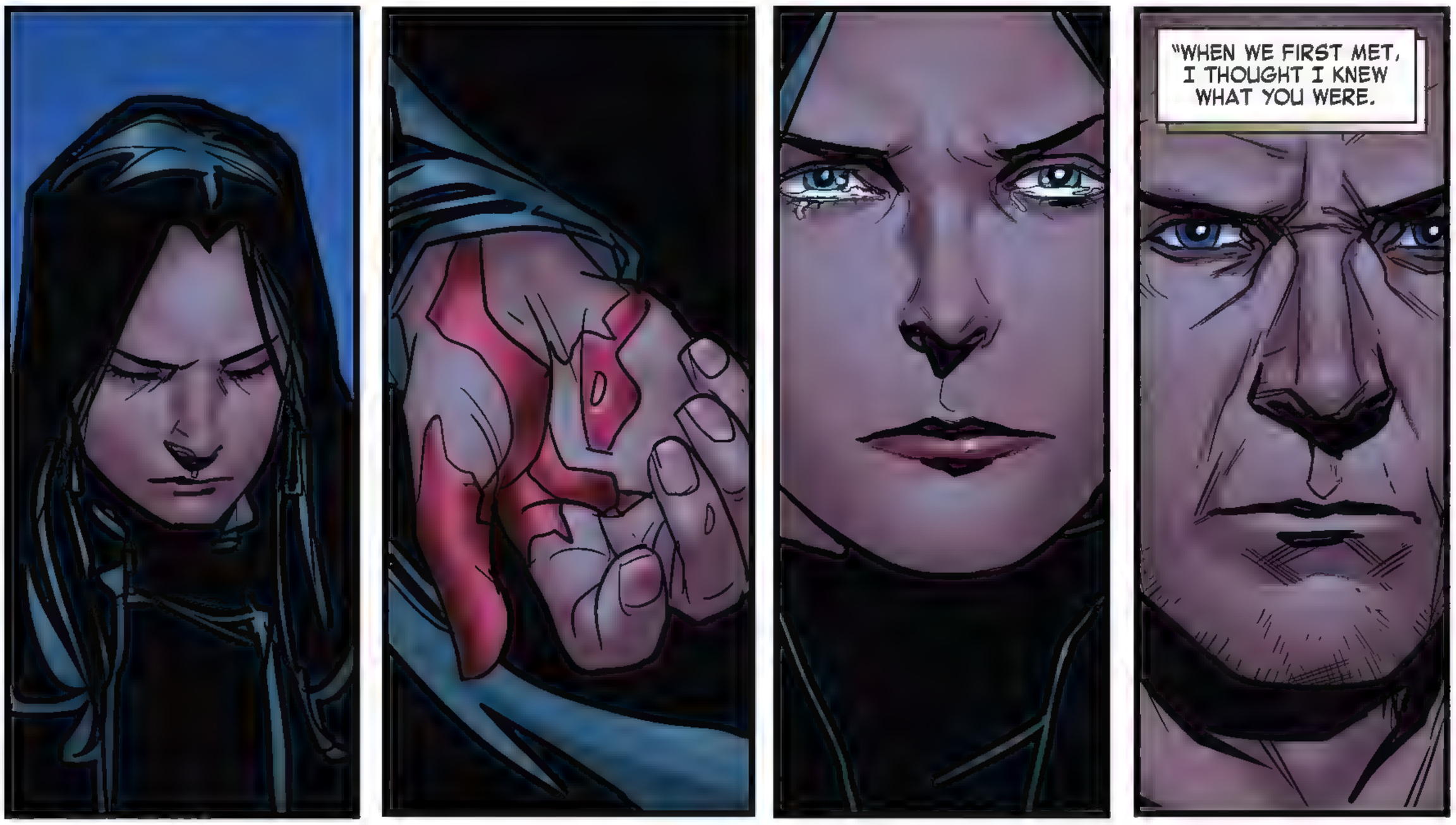
BETTER WATCH YOUR STEP DOWN THERE--LOOKS KINDA SLIPPERY!


WHERE'S THE REST OF THE TEAM?

UNKNOWN.


WHERE IS YOUR BROTHER?


HE'S GONE.
HOW GONE?


"WHEN WE FIRST MET, I THOUGHT I KNEW WHAT YOU WERE.

"I WAS WRONG...BUT I WAS WRONG ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS, BACK THEN. I WASN'T VERY SMART. I'VE LEARNED...SO MUCH SINCE THEN.

"WHAT I HAVEN'T LEARNED, THOUGH... AND WHAT'S BECOMING MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT BY THE MOMENT, IT SEEMS, TO FIGURE OUT..."

...IS WHAT *I* AM.

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, SAMUEL.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE MEANT TO DO.

YOU ARE MEANT TO *LEAD.*

AR

END.

THUNDERBOLTS

MARVEL NOW!

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

SOULE
DILLON
GURU eFX

012

HOLLYWOOD TYPES DON'T KNOW $&*% ABOUT SECURITY.

THE GATE GUARD WAS TEXTING. PUT HIM DOWN, TOOK HIS SUNGLASSES, TURNED MY SHIRT INSIDE OUT AND WALKED RIGHT IN.

NO ONE'S PAYING ANY ATTENTION TO ME, BUT I'M ALL ANY OF THEM ARE THINKING ABOUT.

THEY DON'T KNOW WHO I AM, BUT I MUST BE *SOMEONE*, OR I WOULDN'T BE HERE.

THEY'LL FIND OUT.

I'M FRANK CASTLE. AND I'M NOT HERE TO PARTY.

I SEE YOU.

AND YOU.

AND ALL OF YOU. YOU PROBABLY DESERVE IT MORE THAN ANYONE IN THIS ROOM.

I'M GOING TO REMEMBER EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU.

FOR LATER.

HE'S HERE. I KNOW IT. THIS PLACE FITS HIM LIKE A GLOVE.

THERE. HE DOESN'T LOOK IT, BUT HE'S DANGEROUS.

MY SOURCE TELLS ME HE'S ASSUMED THE IDENTITY OF CARMEN SANDOVAL, A FAMOUS ITALIAN HAIR AND MAKEUP ARTIST. HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT WITH BLEACHED HAIR AND A FANCY SUIT.

HE SEES ME. TIME TO MOVE.

SMART. MK3A2. CONCUSSION GRENADE. NO SHRAPNEL, BUT THE SHOCKWAVE WILL KILL EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM.

I CAN DEAL WITH THE GRENADE OR I CAN DEAL WITH HIM. SMART.

BANG BANG

CAN'T THROW IT OUTSIDE. I DON'T KNOW WHO'S OUT THERE.

MOVE!

BOOM

LONG GONE.

GO AHEAD AND RUN, ORESTEZ.

WE'LL DO THIS AGAIN.

YOU'RE GOOD. YOU MIGHT GET PAST ME NEXT TIME TOO, AND MAYBE EVEN THE TIME AFTER THAT.

BUT YOU'VE GOT TO BEAT ME *EVERY* TIME IF YOU WANT TO STAY ALIVE.

I ONLY HAVE TO KILL YOU *ONCE.*

THREE WEEKS EARLIER.
THUNDERBOLTS HQ.

WHAT DID YOU DO WITH HIS BODY?

ELEKTRA?

HE WAS MY BROTHER, AND I PUT HIM IN THE GROUND. THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW.

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN, IF SHE HADN'T HESITATED.

BUT SHE DID, AND THAT WAS ENOUGH.

NEVADA. NOW.

THE NATCHIOS SIBLINGS--AS FAR AS I KNOW THAT'S JUST ELEKTRA AND ORESTEZ, AND GOD HELP THE WORLD IF THERE ARE ANY MORE--HAVE A HABIT OF NOT STAYING DEAD.

ELEKTRA'S A KILLER, BUT THAT'S FINE. SHE TENDS TO KILL FOR THE RIGHT REASONS. I UNDERSTAND THAT.

ORESTEZ IS ANOTHER THING ENTIRELY. HE CALLS HIMSELF A FREEDOM FIGHTER. HE SAYS HE'S A TERRORIST, WITH THAT TONE OF VOICE THAT LETS YOU KNOW HE'S PROUD OF IT. HE'S A MONSTER.

ELEKTRA AND I, ALONG WITH A FEW SUPER-POWERED PSYCHOTICS, DESTROYED ORESTEZ'S OPERATION NOT LONG AGO. TOOK HIM DOWN TO NOTHING.

ONCE IT WAS ALL OVER, ELEKTRA TOLD US SHE HAD KILLED HIM.

BUT THEN SHE HESITATED WHEN I ASKED HER ABOUT THE BODY.

I FOUND ONE OF ORESTEZ'S PRIOR ASSOCIATES--ONE OF HIS LIEUTENANTS. I PERSUADED HIM TO TELL ME WHERE NATCHIOS MIGHT GO, IF HE NEEDED TO LAY LOW FOR A WHILE.

IT WASN'T QUICK.

EVENTUALLY, THOUGH, I HAD A LIST OF EVERY FRIEND HE HAD LEFT. EVERY CONNECTION HE MIGHT EXPLOIT, EVERY BOLT-HOLE HE MIGHT USE.

HE'D USED THIS GANG BEFORE AS HIRED MUSCLE. THE ROADKILLERS. HARD MEN. LOT OF VETERANS GONE BAD. TRAINED MEN, WHO USE THAT TRAINING TO STEAL AND KILL WHEREVER THEY GO.

MADE SENSE HE MIGHT USE THEM AGAIN.

BANG

I WASN'T EXPECTING A CONVERTIBLE. HE MUST HAVE BEEN THROWN CLEAR.

HE'S OUT THERE.

IF HE HAD A RIFLE, I MIGHT BE WORRIED, BUT HE DOESN'T. HE WAS TOSSED FROM AN EXPLODING CAR MOVING AT EIGHTY MILES PER HOUR.

HE'S GOT WHATEVER HE HAD ON HIM AT THE TIME. A PISTOL, MAYBE.

NO WAY HE MAKES A PISTOL SHOT FROM OUT THERE, AND THE MINUTE HE FIRES I KNOW WHERE HE IS FROM THE MUZZLE FLARE.

NO. HE'S JUST GOING TO TRY TO SLIP AWAY.

HEY, MAN, HEY NOW...

THAT'S FINE. PLENTY OF WORK TO DO HERE.

HE'S TRYING HIS DAMNEDEST. I'LL GIVE HIM THAT.

SLITHERED AWAY FROM ME PLENTY OF TIMES.

BUT LIKE I SAID.

I ONLY HAVE TO KILL HIM ONCE.

ORESTEZ. COME OUT. IT'S TIME.

WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD I DO THAT, FRANK? I'M PERFECTLY HAPPY IN HERE.

YOU'VE LEFT YOURSELF NOWHERE TO GO. NO MORE ESCAPES. IF YOU HAD ANYTHING LEFT TO TRY, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LOCKED YOURSELF IN A PANIC ROOM WITH ONLY ONE EXIT.

OH REALLY? OR PERHAPS I HAVE USED THIS CHAMBER'S WONDERFUL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS TO CALL THE CAVALRY. YOU WERE IN THE MILITARY ONCE, FRANK, NO? YOU WILL APPRECIATE THE CONCEPT.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANYONE LEFT TO CALL, ORESTEZ. I'VE KILLED MOST OF THEM, AND THE ONES I HAVEN'T WON'T HELP YOU. THEY'RE TOO AFRAID THEY'LL BE NEXT.

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE, YOU LOWBORN &#$%#$!!!

I CAN WAIT YOU OUT. AS LONG AS IT TAKES. BUT I THINK WE BOTH WANT THIS TO BE OVER.

SO WHAT, I SHOULD JUST OPEN THE DOOR AND LET YOU PUT A BULLET IN MY HEAD?

THAT'S RIGHT.

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, CASTLE. WHY WOULD I EVER DO SUCH A THING?

BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T, THEN I'LL KILL YOUR SISTER INSTEAD. SHE LET YOU LIVE--A TERRORIST, MURDERER AND ALL AROUND PIECE OF SCUM.

IN MY BOOK, THAT MAKES HER ALMOST AS BAD AS YOU. ELEKTRA DESERVES PUNISHMENT.

YOU WOULDN'T DARE! AND IN ANY CASE, ELEKTRA WOULD KILL YOU A HUNDRED TIMES BEFORE YOU WERE ABLE TO LAY A SINGLE FINGER ON HER.

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

VERY WELL. BUT I HAVE TERMS.

WELL, ONE TERM, REALLY. WE FIGHT HAND TO HAND, LIKE MEN.

FINE BY ME.

SHOW ME.

SNK

SNICK

KLIK

MARVELOUS, FRANK. I AM COMING OUT.

Oh.

YAAAAAA!

BOOM

WHAT, I'M A #$%& IDIOT?

CASTLE, LISTEN TO ME. THERE'S A WAY WE CAN WORK THIS OUT, I'M SURE.

NO WEAPONS.

THAT WAS THE AGREEMENT, YES.

YOU'VE SEEN MY LITTLE SISTER FIGHT. SO GOOD, NO? AND SHE'S JUST A WOMAN. WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE HOW A NATCHIOS *MAN* FIGHTS.

YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK? I THINK THE MINUTE ELEKTRA WAS BORN YOUR PARENTS LOOKED AT EACH OTHER AND SAID, *"THANK GOD WE DID BETTER THAN THAT LITTLE PIECE OF #%$% ORESTEZ."*

CRAKK

KRAKK

KRKK

PLEASE, CASTLE. YOU HAVE WON. PLEASE.

SOME PEOPLE WOULD LEAVE HIM LIKE THIS. THEY'D CONSIDER IT A WORSE PUNISHMENT THAN KILLING HIM.

=MPH=

NOT ME.

THUNDERBOLTS HQ.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

WORKING.

SHE LET HIM LIVE.

FAIR ENOUGH. I'LL SEE YOU TONIGHT?

I COULD DO IT RIGHT NOW. *RIGHT NOW.*

NO.

NOT TONIGHT.

END.

"Full of smashing, shooting and explosions with a bit of intrigue and conspiracy thrown in for good measure."
— IGN

TRUST IS FOR SUCKERS!

The Thunderbolts tear themselves apart trying to expose a new terrorist mastermind with close ties to a team member. As the incendiary extremist rises to prominence by making a legion of Gamma-powered Crimson Dynamo armors available for sale, tensions between the Thunderbolts bubble to the surface and the campaign to take down the military threat draws out the worst in the team. Rendered ineffectual by in-fighting and back-biting, will the T-Bolts overcome their mistrust to take out the supplier? Or will the global arms dealer usher in an era of worldwide fear in their moment of distraction?

Collecting *Thunderbolts (2013) #7-12* — written by Daniel Way and Charles Soule, and illustrated by Phil Noto and Steve Dillon.

PARENTAL ADVISORY

MARVEL

ZONE